Wolverhampton
CHRONICLE

Thursday, December 10, 2015 | Read by more than 72,000 people | Price when sold 60p

Chiefs buoyed by success plan for next year's event

MARATHON CASH TOPS £40k MARK

Report by Joe Edwards

CARVER Wolverhampton City Marathon organisers are delighted this week after handing over £18,250 to their four chosen charities with as much as £25,000 raised already for other causes.

Now in its 18th year, over 2,100 people took part across all of the events – the full marathon, half marathon, Banks's 10k run, Cousins 20k cycle ride and Callprint 3k walk – on September 6.

Wolverhampton Mayor Ian Brookfield and Henry Carver with the cheque

Compton Hospice, Samaritans Wolverhampton, Beacon Centre for the Blind, and The Mayoral Fund will all benefit from the funds raised on the day.

Representatives from the charities, along with Mayor of Wolverhampton Ian Brookfield and Henry Carver, were on the hand for the presentation at the Mayor's Parlour on Monday.

Mary Harding, race director and chair of the marathon's planning committee said: "It is a great event for the city, we aim to get people out exercising and it's great to raise money for charity.

"A lot of people run in the event independently, for their own chosen charities, which we always welcome. The entry fee goes to the four chosen charities.

Planning

"With them, you could probably add £20,000 to £25,000 to what we have handed over.

"It is getting bigger and bigger every year. Planning is under way for next year, and we have already had quite a few entries. People like the Wolverhampton marathon because there is a lovely atmosphere, and a nice course. It's a very nice marathon."

Since its inception in 1998, the event has continued to grow, with many charities being supported along the way.

Many causes have been beneficiaries over the years, including Wolverhampton Rheumatology Support Group, Children's outpatients at New Cross Hospital and West Park Stroke Cycling Group.

Compton Hospice and the Mayoral Fund will remain for next year, but organisers are on the lookout for two local charities to support.

If you would like to apply to be one of the Carver Wolverhampton City Marathon chosen charities for the 2016 race, email Mary Harding at mharding681@gmail.com.

FIRST FESTIVE FAIR HAILED A SPARKLING SUCCESS

From left, event organiser Lewis Stovin, of Codsall, Compton Hospice shop manageress Rosemary Gillan, of Brewood, and Gavin Williamson MP

THE first ever Codsall Christmas Fair has been hailed as a storming success by organisers. For the first time, in addition to the traditional 'Carols around the Christmas Tree' event, visitors were treated to a Christmas Fair with trade stalls, live music, hot food and a host of events on Friday.

There were performances from the internationally acclaimed juggler Steve Kaos, local band Sunhoney and soloist Sam Draisey. Traditionally, the carol singing event attracts around 300 people, however the new fair brought in over 1,500 revellers.

All funds raised from the evening's collection will go to the Tettenhall Rotary Club.

Chairman of the Codsall Christmas Fair Group, Lewis Stovin said: "The only word I can use to describe the evening is spectacular. It really has been unbelievable and I couldn't have asked for anything better.

"It has taken 12 months to put all of this together and it hasn't always been easy organising an event that involves so many people. Not one person has come up to me with any negative feedback. I would like to thank everyone who has been involved, all of the businesses who have helped us out and most importantly, the people who came along. This is a fantastic starting point."

Gavin Williamson, MP for South Staffordshire, said: "Joining Codsall residents for Carols around the Christmas Tree is one of my favourite annual events.

"I am delighted to see that organisers have put so much effort in this year to make it such a huge community event. It is always great to see the Salvation Army and numerous other local organisations join in, it really feels like Christmas has begun."

TECHNOLOGY

Joy as 120 city firms in broadband quest

MORE than 120 businesses in Wolverhampton have taken advantage of vouchers of up to £3,000 to boost their broadband. The Government's Broadband Connection Voucher Scheme aims to give small and medium-sized businesses the chance to have superfast internet access.

Cabinet member for city economy, Councillor John Reynolds, said: "Upgrading to super-fast broadband helps future-proof businesses for the digital challenges of tomorrow and it is great news so many Wolverhampton businesses have taken advantage of this scheme."

PLANS

Medical centre in bid for expansion

PLANS to expand a Wolverhampton medical centre have been submitted.

A new consulting room and larger waiting area could be created at Parkfield Medical Centre on Parkfield Road.

The new consulting room will enable the practice to offer up to 30 extra 10 minute appointments a day.

There will also be a facility for telephone and e-mail contact with patients.

A planning application has been submitted to Wolverhampton Council and a decision is due within three months.

VANDALISM

Temple targeted in racist graffiti attack

VANDALS have daubed racist graffiti on a Sikh temple in Wolverhampton. The Guru Nanak Gurdwara on Well Lane, Wednesfield, was targeted at the weekend.

A derogatory word was painted on an outside wall. An image showing the graffiti has since circulated on social media.

Wednesfield South Councillor Bhupinder Gakhal said: "We are the same Sikh community who contributed towards the Christmas tree near Wednesfield library as well as the St Thomas Church clock.

"And we're the same Sikh community who answered the call from England to fight in both world wars."

INSIDE

Hair today... Luke gets locks lopped

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CONTACT US

EDITORIAL:
Tel: 01902 319363
E-mail: wolverhampton.chronicles@expressandstar.co.uk

SPORTS:
Tel: 01902 319453
E-mail: chron.sport@expressandstar.co.uk

PHOTOGRAPHIC:
Tel: John Sambrooks 01902 319431

ADVERTISING: Sue Tolley
Tel: 01902 3196420
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Butcher Bennett is a real diamond

Chef Monica Galetti, Allan Bennett and Mark Turnbull

A BUTCHER in Codsall has been recognised for decades of hard work making banging bangers.

Allan Bennett, who runs Allan Bennett Butchers on Station Road, won a diamond award at the 2015 Butchers Q Guild Smithfield Awards.

The inspirational butcher was also presented with a special Outstanding Contribution to the Q Guild award by top chef Monica Galetti and Q Guild chairman Mark Turnbull.

Mr Bennett said: "I'm very, very pleased. I didn't know anything about this. It feels absolutely amazing. I love the job and I get a lot of enjoyment out of the job. I also get a lot of enjoyment out of what I put into the job.

"I've passed on all the knowledge I have in making the perfect sausage – the only thing I haven't given them is my seasoning recipe, which I've had for over 40 years. That's a secret.

"One of the best things that ever happened to the meat industry was the Guild of Q Butchers.

"When I first started, my ambition was to keep the retail butcher on the High Street. The only way we can do that is as by working together, pulling together and helping each other out. I'm there in the morning at 6am, it's my life, it's my hobby. I shall never retire."

Mr Turnbull said: "Seventy seven years young, he still has the drive and enthusiasm for the meat industry as he had when he was 16. He is a legend in the meat industry and one of the most respected members we have in the Q Guild."

The shop picked up the diamond award this year for its Beef & Horseradish Sausage and was also nominated as the Best English Beef product.

£75k tax fraudster is spared jail term

A TAX fraudster who swindled the public out of £75,000 by siphoning cash from her business into separate accounts has been spared an immediate jail stint and been ordered to pay back the money within 30 days.

Between April 2008 and March 2011, Anita Claire, of Kingslow Lane, Pattingham, took money from her Clean 4 You Ltd business and paid it into different accounts to avoid paying the full amounts of national insurance, corporation tax and PAYE liability.

A routine check by HMRC on June 12 last year revealed the wrongdoing, and further investigations took place which found that the 43-year-old had fraudulently avoided tax fees of £75,657.58.

Holiday

Prosecuting barrister, Mr Balvinder Bhatti told Wolverhampton Crown Court that Claire had taken sums of cash out of the main business account at regular intervals over the three years, and put it into separate accounts, including one in the name of her mother.

"The money was used for the running of the business. She also used it for mortgage payments, a holiday and to pay for the lease on a company car."

Claire previously pleaded guilty to cheating public revenue.

Defending, Mr Alastair Bell said: ""She now knows what she did was wrong. She's run her business since 2006, but hasn't got very strong admin skills. She was so oblivious to what she'd done, she actually handed papers which incriminated her to HMRC staff when they investigated her.

"She employs 15 members of staff at her business, who rely on her to some extent. She now has a partner, who also runs a business, and he is having a positive influence in helping her with the admin side."

Judge James Bearbridge told Claire: "You decided that you would not declare money that you had made through your business."

He sentenced her to 16 months imprisonment, suspended for 18 months and 100 hours of unpaid work.

Tuning into refugee dilemma

Eternal Purpose, from left, Tim Matthews and David Tatler, have produced a charity CD called Refugee

A CANCER survivor who was moved by seeing Syrian refugees fleeing war-torn countries has released a song to aid charity.

Two years ago David Tatler was diagnosed with cancer and was forced to give up work.

But since making a full recovery, Mr Tatler from Penn, felt like he had been given a second chance at life. A year later he has released a single and will also host a night of busking in aid of charity.

Mr Tatler said: "The doctors didn't know how far the cancer had spread but I thought I had been given a death sentence and it was all very shocking. I am very grateful to the surgeons that I am now healed and I feel I have been given a new life."

Mr Tatler, who plays the guitar, teamed up with Tim Matthews, from Dudley Community Church and formed the band Eternal Purpose. The pair wrote and recorded Refugee and filmed a video in Wombourne. The song has been released on YouTube and can be bought in CD format from Vines coffee shop in Stourbridge, the CLC Bookshop in Worcester Street, Wolverhampton, and downloaded through iTunes.

Mr Tatler also began trying to persuade buskers around Wolverhampton to sign up for his latest project, A Busker's Christmas, at the Salop Street church on December 13, from 6pm. The event is free but a collection will be held going towards supporting refugees.

Journalism course best in country once again

A COURSE which teaches the next generation of journalists has been named the best in the country – for the fifth consecutive year.

City of Wolverhampton College was named as the top further education provider of the National Council for the Training of Journalists diploma at the annual Journalism Skills Conference at the Library of Birmingham.

The college was among six top performing NCTJ accredited centres across the country presented with awards for the highest percentage of students achieving the gold standard of A-C grades in all exams including 100 words per minute shorthand.

Lecturer Dani Wozencroft said: "I am absolutely thrilled to have won the best performing course award once again.

"Although we have won it for five years now, this is the second since I have been in post and it was important to me to maintain the high standards at City of Wolverhampton College."

The college has been accredited by the NCTJ since 1997 and is now the only accredited further education journalism training centre in the Midlands.

It works with the Express & Star on its journalism apprenticeship scheme and is also helping to train the BBC's radio apprentices.

BBC apprentices Robby West and Michael Stevens were also commended in the Apprentice of the Year category.

Curriculum manager Michael Dixon added: "It is a testament to the quality of the lecturers we have at the college."

Fire chief is to retire in spring

THE Chief Fire Officer of Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service Peter Dartford will step down from his role early next year.

Mr Dartford has been in the fire service for 34 years and joined Staffordshire in 1999.

He rose through the ranks and became Chief Fire Officer in 2008. He will retire in April.

He said: "This has been the most difficult decision of my career. However I believe it is the right decision and best for me, my family and the organisation.

"I am confident Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service can rise to meet the challenges ahead and continue to deliver positive outcomes for communities.

He was awarded the Queen's Fire Service medal in 2014.

Cool! Frozen's Elsa in festive store visit

CHARACTERS from Frozen will be visiting a store in Wolverhampton.

Elsa, Anna and Olaf will be at Leekes Bilston on Saturday, December 12 and 13. Children's tickets are £5, adults £7.50 and include breakfast and a gift for children.

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Post office hours of business may extend

A BUSY post office could open for seven days a week and have extended operating hours.

Bosses want to modernise and introduce Sunday opening at Perry Hall Post Office in Stubby Lane, Wednesfield.

Plans would also see the branch open from 7am-10pm every day – an extra 59 hours a week.

At present, it is open from 9am until 5.30pm from Monday to Friday, from 9am-12.30pm on Saturday and is closed on Sundays.

The proposed change is part of major modernisation programme across the Post Office network designed to make it easier for customers to do business.

Regional manager Suzanne Richardson said: "We understand how important having a post office is and we are confident that this new modern Post Office service will meet the needs of the local community and secure services for the future.."

Bosses are now looking for feedback from customers before a final decision is made on the plans.

People can send their comments by Freepost to Your Comments, Post Office Ltd, via email to comments@postoffice.co.uk, via the customer helpline on 03457 22 33 44 or Textphone 03457 22 33 55.

Customers can also share their views online through the quick and easy questionnaire at postofficeviews.co.uk with the branch code 209246.

The deadline for submissions is December 30.

Housing group backs The Way

WOLVERHAMPTON Homes is to invest £75,000 into The Way Youth Zone over the next three years.

The body – which looks after more than 23,000 homes on behalf of Wolverhampton council – has been named as a founder patron of the multi-million pound project.

Due to open officially on Saturday, January 16, The Way will offer a one-stop all-inclusive hub for children and teenagers in the city to socialise, play and learn.

Lesley Roberts, chief executive of Wolverhampton Homes, said: "I love the fact that we're a founder patron of The Way. We look after 23,000 council homes, so think of all those youngsters looking for things to do. It will bring so many benefits to the city."

Road is closed to replace gas main

A TEMPORARY road closure is in place until Christmas Eve for work to replace a gas main. Drivers face the disruption on Blackhalve Lane at the junction of Wood End Road and Wood Hayes Road in Fallings Park.

Manor blooms with festive cheer

Florist Georgina Grainger at work

SANTA'S elves have been hard at work bringing festive cheer to visitors to Wightwick Manor.

National Trust volunteers have been decorating the manor house at Wightwick Bank, Wolverhampton, getting it ready to welcome visitors over the holiday period.

The spectacular Victorian house, which was accepted by the trust in 1937, has been adorned with an array of lights and decorations as well as produce from the manor gardens.

It has opened for Christmas visitors and people will be able to go and see the manor up until December 28 apart from Tuesdays and Christmas Day, when it is closed.

On December 12, 13, 19 and 20 the Manor will be hosting Father Christmas in the sitting room between 11am-4pm. Tickets are available in the visitor reception on a first come basis. Tickets for children are £6.50, admission prices to accompanying adults.

And there are free craft activities where people can have a go at making William Morris Christmas tree decorations.

A range of William Morris-inspired products will be available to buy in the Old Manor shop. It will be open up to 4pm on Christmas Eve. The manor's popular carol concerts on December 7, 8, 14 and 15 have already sold out.

When asked if staff are getting into the Christmas spirit, visitor centre reception assistant Dorothy Bennett said: "Absolutely. The house has been decorated by the volunteers and they have made it look beautiful using produce from the garden."

Details on www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wightwick-manor-and-gardens.

£15,000 reward put up to find Tom's killer

A £15,000 reward has been put up to help find the killer of Tom Kirwan.

Tom's family has put up £10,000 following fundraising efforts led by his mother Emer, while Crimestoppers has added £5,000.

The Wolves fan was stabbed to death more than three years ago outside Uberra, the former Canal Club. Trouble broke out between two groups on July 8, 2012, before more people arrived in cars, joined in and 23-year-old Tom was stabbed. He later died in hospital.

Emer Kirwan said: "We hope with the added incentive of our reward and also Crimestoppers' kind reward that someone will come forward with that missing piece of the jigsaw so we can finally see justice for Tom.

Tom Kirwan

"Over three years on and we are still looking for answers. We will never give up hope that Tom's killer will be found."

Det Insp Warren Hines, who leads the investigation, added: "West Midlands Police is as committed today as we were on day one to bringing whoever is responsible for Tom's death to justice.

"I hope the incentive of a reward, not only from Crimestoppers but also Tom's family, will bring new information forward that we can investigate.

"We understand how difficult this is for Tom's family particularly in the lead up to the festive period and our thoughts remain with them."

The mass brawl inside the club began was sparked when a woman's handbag was knocked over. It spilled outside and involved more than a dozen people.

Mr Kirwan, who worked at Bridgnorth Aluminium, was fatally stabbed, but despite numerous appeals for information no one has ever stood before a court charged with his murder.

Last year, five people were locked up for taking part in the trouble outside Uberra, now The Boatyard. Another man accused of being involved in the fighting was acquitted.

The joint reward is for information given to the Crimestoppers charity via their anonymous 0800 555 111 telephone number or online, that leads to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible.

Peter and Kerry Bannister with some of the items they bought to give to the cancer unit at Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital

Hospital aided by cancer survivor

A CANCER sufferer has done his bit to help the hospital he credits with sparking his recuperation – by kitting out the day room at the ward he stayed on.

Peter Bannister, from Wolverhampton, was diagnosed with sarcoma in 2014 and underwent six cycles of chemotherapy at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham.

To show their gratitude he and his wife Kerry raised £1,700, which had been earmarked for the hospital's oncology fund.

But hospital bosses said they desperately needed new equipment for the day room on the ward where Mr Bannister, aged 26, of Deansfield, had stayed.

The money was used to buy two settees, leather chairs, a plasma television and fittings and wall canvases, which have now been fitted in the day room on Ward 623.

The space is used as a relaxation room for patients and their families.

"We are so grateful to the staff at the QE for everything they did for Peter," added mother-of-two Mrs Bannister.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Festive thanks after fundraiser

PEOPLE can enjoy festive treats at a building society in Wolverhampton this week – as a thank you for reaching a fundraising target.

Yorkshire Building Society's Hour of Need campaign was launched in 2014 with the aim of raising £500,000 by December 2016. The target has been reached a year early with the current total standing at more than £700,000.

In Wolverhampton, customers contributed £226 and the Queen Square branch is this week hosting the Christmas-themed thank you week.

Six in court over footbll fan attack

SIX youths accused of being involved in the attack that left Watford fan Nic Cruwys in a coma have appeared in court. Last Friday's hearing at Wolverhampton Crown Court was put back until January 18.

Joseph Lister, of Palmer Close, Wednesfield; Daniel Lloyd, of Longfellow Road, Dudley; Ryan Meer, of Watling Street, Gailey – all aged 18, Robert Beech, 19, of Springhill Road, Wednesfield and two youths aged 14 and 15, are all accused of wounding with intent on March 7 and were granted conditional bail.

Penalty for poor school parking

DRIVERS have been issued fixed penalty notices after parking inconsiderately outside a Wolverhampton school.

Police had stepped up patrols in the Spring Vale area after complaints from residents that parents had been causing obstructions at drop-off and pick-up times.

Officers have advised parents regarding parking at all four primary schools. At the Manor Primary School two motorists were given notices.

Attempted murder suspect fit for trial

A MAN accused of trying to stab his parents to death in the family home in Wolverhampton has appeared in court.

Marcel Mowbray, from Eastfield Grove, Eastfield, has been deemed fit to stand trial for the attack on Antoinette Alleyne, 57, and Ian Mowbray, 55. At Wolverhampton Crown Court, Judge Amjad Nawaz set a trial date for January 4. Mowbray previously denied attempted murder on June 14. He was remanded in custody.

Comic Murray gig

COMEDIAN Al Murray brings his new to Wolverhampton's Civic Hall next year.

The Pub Landlord will star in Al Murray: Let's Go Backwards Together on November 5.

Tickets are £30.25. on 0870 320 7000 or at www.wolvescivic.co.uk

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

ONE of the outstanding moments of the Commons debate on whether to bomb Syria was the short, straightforward speech by Dan Jarvis, reminding us that this plain-speaking 43-year-old ex-soldier would make a formidable Labour Party leader. There is still time.

CAMPAIGNERS claim that two curry restaurants in Britain close every week because of a shortage of trained chefs from the Indian sub-continent. The answer, they insist, is to relax UK migration rules to allow in more skilled chefs. Their argument is that only Indian, Bangladeshi, Pakistani or Kashmiri-born cooks could possibly have the necessary skills. What a load of bunkum. For a start, this argument is vaguely racist. Imagine the fury if anyone suggested that only somebody born in England could cook fish and chips, or that haggis-stuffing jobs were reserved exclusively for Scotsmen. Secondly, if the restaurants raised their wages, they might have less difficulty recruiting staff. It's hardly surprising there's a shortage of chefs if restaurant owners continue to exclude half the available population. When did you last see a female chef in a curry house?

IS anyone surprised that scrapping the vehicle tax disc has been followed by a doubling in the number of untaxed cars on the road to more than half a million? If you make it easy to get away with tax dodging, people will dodge taxes. Does anyone in Whitehall have a brain?

A FRIEND is hobbling around and popping Ibuprofen.

Why is it that all the conditions we used to laugh about in Les Dawson's comedy routines – gout, bunions, lumbago and sciatica – are so damn painful in real life?

A LABOUR MP says it's time to find a gender-neutral word to replace "fisherman." She is promptly deluged with suggestions including "fish stranglers" and "fisherdudes." My favourite so far is "cod-botherers."

A READER says the sadness and solemnity of recent events have been spoiled by the computer-generated news subtitles on his TV. "Paris attacks" appeared as "Parrot attacks," "Charles de Gaulle" as "Sure other goal" and "responsibility" as "portability." He was fascinated to read that it was "not possible to bum from 30,000 feet." Bomb, apparently.

MEANWHILE, over on Channel 5. 11.40am, Film: Annie Claus is Coming to Town. 1.30pm, Film: The Christmas Shepherd. 3.10pm. Film: Finding Mrs Claus. 5.10pm, Film: Christmas in Conway. All together, now: It's beginning to feel a lot like overkill.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Danger driver dived from moving car

A DANGEROUS driver led police on a high-speed chase through a residential area before diving from the vehicle as it moved in a bid to escape, a court heard.

The car came to a stop on a grass verge – before Craig Stanway, who had a small amount of cannabis in the vehicle, was found by police more than 40 minutes later.

Stanway, of High Street, Sedgley, pleaded guilty at Wolverhampton Crown Court to dangerous driving and driving without insurance.

The 30-year-old had claimed he was struggling with kidney failure and was trying to get away from his ex-partner's boyfriend.

Mr Robert Price, prosecuting, said police spotted Stanway driving the Ford Focus in Dudley erratically on May 8 at around 12.51am.

"He was driving down Himley Road, which is a 30mph road, at around 60-70mph on the wrong side of the carriageway. It was described by police as a quiet road.

"As police closed in he tried once to jump out of the vehicle while it was still moving, before trying again and succeeding. He made no attempt to put the handbrake on and the car continued rolling forward, mounting the pavement and coming to a halt in a grass verge.

Stanway broke down in tears in court and apologised.

He was sentenced to seven months imprisonment, suspended for 12 months, disqualified from driving, given a 12-month community order and rehabilitation requirement of 20 days and put on curfew between 9pm-6am..

Concerns on homes plan for green land

Report by Rob Cox

CONCERNS over plans for 13 homes on prized green land have been raised by residents.

More than 50 Finchfield residents attended a public meeting over proposals for council-owned land at the Wolverhampton Environment Centre (WEC) which backs onto Smestow Valley Local Nature Reserve.

Alison Fowler, estates valuation and disposals officer at Wolverhampton council, told the meeting the cash-strapped authority was considering selling a small section of the 16.5 acre site to developers but that no more than 13 homes would be built.

She added the income from the sale would be 'ring-fenced' and used to create allotments at the WEC, as well as to improve the neighbouring nature reserve.

Traffic

Despite her assurances concerns were raised over access to the development off Westacre Crescent, increased traffic, wildlife at the WEC and the erosion of green spaces.

Others who were present said the Smestow Valley Local Nature Reserve would benefit from a cash injection.

Ms Fowler, said: "The whole site would not be filled up with housing. In fact 90 per cent would have no houses and will go into the local nature reserve for the public of Wolverhampton to use.

"There will be a small part of the site for new development but only where the glass houses are at the moment."

The glass houses were once used to grow flowers for the city's parks and roadside displays.

The public meeting, held at Smestow School, was organised by the Finchfield and Castlecroft Community Association (FCCA.)

Chairman Andrew Atkinson said it was held in response to "alarmist and incorrect" information.

Take a lock at this fundraising effort

Luke Millington, aged 15, after having his hair cut, with Kully Nagra at Ned's Barber Shop, Wolverhampton

A WOLVERHAMPTON teenager has raised hundreds of pounds for charity after being inspired by his kickboxing instructor.

Luke Millington, aged 15, of Lanesfield, had his mop cropped at Neds Barber Shop on Birmingham New Road, in aid of Cardiac Risk in the Young, which promotes and develops heart screening programmes.

The youngster became involved with the charity via Eclipse Kickboxing and his instructor Kully Nagra, who lost his brother Pardeep to an undetected heart condition.

Along with Kully and other members of the club, Luke had already taken part in fundraisers but wanted to do something extra special to raise money for the cause.

Lyndsay Millington, Luke's mother, said: "He had been growing his hair for three years and was contemplating whether to have it cut.

"He decided that he wanted to do something memorable and raise money for the charity so he had his hair cut and managed to raise £627."

Cardiac Risk in the Young works to reduce the frequency of young sudden cardiac death, support those diagnosed with potentially life-threatening cardiac conditions and offer bereavement support to families affected.

For more information visit www.c-r-y.org.uk

New posts as plan for care home submitted

A NEW care home for the elderly and people with dementia could be built in Wolverhampton.

The new home in Penn Road, near Goldthorn Hill, would be a sister facility to The Leylands care home less than half a mile away.

Proposals have been submitted to Wolverhampton Council.

Under the plans, there would be enough beds to accommodate up to 15 residents and the new home could create four new full-time jobs as well as six part-time posts. They would see an existing semi-detached house converted to include a single-storey extension to the front and rear.

As part of the renovations external finishes would be restored, repainted and cleaned where required and six parking spaces would be available at the front of the home for its residents.

The existing Leylands care home accommodates up to 21 elderly residents and also assists those with dementia. It was rated 'good' overall following an inspection by the Care Quality Commission in March.

The new plans come on the back of a decision to shut three council-run care homes in the city.

It was agreed last month to shut down Merry Hill House in Langley Road and Nelson Mandela House in Whitburn Close, with their services outsourced to private providers.

Woden Resource Centre in Wednesfield has also been axed, with day care services sold off to the private sector and residential rehab facilities decommissioned.

Music venue's new commercial vehicle

BILSTON'S Robin 2 has unveiled its 'Ad Van' that will be used for promoting events on the road.

The eye-catching Ford Transit pick-up features an advertising wall on the rear and will be used to promote events at the venue. It will also feature competitions.

Robin 2 spokesman Mike Hamblett said: "We are always trying to move forward with the venue, our Ad Van is a great way of keeping in touch directly with our customers in the West Midlands.

"We will be running competitions with the vehicle and it has created further local employment with the actual driver and logistical management of the vehicle."

For more information on gigs at the Robin 2, visit www.therobin.co.uk

Fundraising a pizza cake for takeaway

A WOLVERHAMPTON pizza takeaway helped to raise hundreds of pounds for ITV's Text Santa appeal. Papa John's on Wolverhampton Road, Codsall, handed out free pizzas to the first 100 customers in return for a minimum £3 donation.

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Thousands in the region are in fear of eviction

LANDLORDS in the Black Country filed more than 3,000 court claims to evict tenants over 12 months.

The Ministry of Justice figures show that people who live in rented properties in Wolverhampton, Dudley and Sandwell are among the most at risk of being booted out of their homes in the West Midlands.

Homelessness charity Shelter has expressed fears for the increasing number of people in the region facing eviction.

Between October 1, 2014, and September 30 this year, landlords issued 1,075 repossession claims in Sandwell – a rate of one in every 49 rented homes in the borough. During the same period there were 898 court applications in Wolverhampton (one in 50 properties) and 753 in Dudley (one in 54).

Those three Black Country boroughs ranked fourth, fifth and sixth as the most risky areas in the West Midlands for renting homes.

Alison Mohammed, director of services at Shelter, said: "Every week hundreds of people in the region receive a notice with the devastating news that they might lose their home.

"We speak to parents every day who are desperately trying to keep a roof over their children's heads, but with rents soaring and housing support being slashed, many are finding themselves at breaking point."

Shelter stated that more families are at risk of eviction due to cuts in housing benefit and a lack of affordable homes.

Hospital recruits Filipino nurses

MORE than 200 nurses from the Philippines have been offered jobs with the trust that runs New Cross Hospital following a recruitment mission to tackle staffing shortage.

A team from The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust have offered jobs to 222 qualified nurses.

Hospital bosses have been forced to look overseas because too few nurses are graduating nationally.

Meanwhile, New Cross will not open an extra ward this winter for the first time in more than a decade due to staff pressures.

Chief executive David Loughton told the Royal Wolverhampton Trust Board there was enough nursing staff at the hospital to safely operate existing wards but not to open others.

Plea by police on stolen goods

DETECTIVES with Wolverhampton's Operation Magpie team are hunting for information about a clutch of suspected stolen goods worth thousands of pounds. To view the items go to @WolvesCID on Twitter.

Youth theatre bid to take over old pub

How O'Neill's would look as the CYT

THIS is how the former O'Neill's bar will look if Wolverhampton Central Youth Theatre succeeds in its plan to create a new home in the heart of the city.

Large windows will give shoppers a glimpse behind the scenes of rehearsals and costumes as they walk past the Lichfield Street venue while plans to restore the shop canopy will see the theatre's name lit up in lights.

Bosses say the £500,000 project will give the company a 'premiere location' opposite the Grand Theatre. They had originally planned to move into part of the former Co-operative store above the Moon Under Water, which is next door to O'Neill's.

But the company snapped up the chance for more prominent ground-floor accommodation in the former Irish bar instead.

CYT Director Jane Ward said original plans were to be based on the first floor and in the basement.

She said: "Ground floor accommodation means we will have shop windows to promote our costume hire facilities and our activities, plus we aim to restore the large shop canopy to really promote the name of Central Youth Theatre within the city."

The building will be transformed into three rehearsal studios, offices, a theatre wardrobe and film editing suite as well as a café bar and social area for young people.

More than £55,000 towards the half a million pounds needed to refurbish the ground floor and basement has already been raised.

A bid for a grant of £384,000 has also been submitted to the Arts Council's Small Scale Capital Fund.

'Worrying picture' as city schools lag behind

WOLVERHAMPTON Council's Tory leader has branded figures placing the city among the worst places in the country for youngsters attending good or outstanding primary schools as 'soul destroying'.

Ofsted's annual report put the city 135th out of 150 local authorities for children attending primaries that fall into the watchdog's top two ratings.

The report shows that although there are now seven per cent more better rated schools in the city than there were in 2014, the city is still lagging behind when it comes to providing a decent level of primary education.

Opposition leader Councillor Wendy Thompson said: "The rate of improvement is nowhere near sufficient and paints a seriously worrying picture for Wolverhampton."

A total of 74 per cent of pupils attend primary schools that are graded good or outstanding by Ofsted. It was better news for secondary schools in the city, however. Wolverhampton jumped 28 places in the national table to joint 81st spot, with 77 per cent of pupils attending good or outstanding schools. This was up nine per cent on 2014.

Prepared

It means the city is now top of the pile in the Black Country for the quality of its secondary schools. However 65 per cent of secondary students now attend academies, which are free from local authority control.

Councillor Thompson added: "Although it is pleasing to see secondary schools improving, the fact remains that they are having to motor at twice the speed to get youngsters prepared for work as a result of the failings of some of our primaries.

"It is soul destroying that we are turning out pupils that we do not have the skills required for work."

Education chiefs at Wolverhampton council say the number of good or outstanding primary schools has improved from 74 per cent to 76 per cent since Ofsted compiled the figures in October.

Councillor Claire Darke, for education, said: "I am pleased with the continuing progress that is being made to raise standards in our city's schools. While we have seen big improvements at both primary and secondary level, there is clearly still more to do to improve standards still further."

Snapshot of Asian immigration

Photographer Anand Chhabra with his "Supnaa - Dreams of our Fathers" exhibition

A FINE art documentary photographer has put on an exhibition in Wolverhampton chronicling stories of Asian immigration.

Anand Chhabra's work 'Supnaa – Dreams of our Fathers" will run at Bantock House, Finchfield Avenue, until December 20. It is free to view.

It shares tales of immigrants from the mass migration to the area in the 1970s.

Mr Chhabra, aged 42 from Warstones, said: "It's a recollection of that massive migration, and a celebration of the tremendous impact the Asian community has had here."

He added: "Some of it incorporates my own upbringing. I've spoken to families in the area and taken pictures from just before they left Asia and the first few years after they arrived here.

"There was an attitude of people not wanting Asian people here, local people thought we were taking jobs and opportunities.

"But this exhibition tells the story of what the Asian community have brought to the Black Country."

Mr Chhabra has been working in photography for the past 10 years. His work is based around trying to tell stories in a series of images or even just a single image, normally in fine art photography or portraiture.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Raising festive notes for charity

ASHMORE Park Choir presents a Christmas concert next week, for the 25th year in succession.

The choir performs at St Thomas's Church, Church Street, Wednesfield, on Tuesday, December 15, at 7.30pm. Proceeds will go to Christian Aid. Almost £16,000 has been raised in previous years.

Tickets are £5, or £2.50 for children, and can be bought at the door.

There will be mince pie refreshments and a festive raffle and the winners of the annual fundraising winter quiz will be announced.

Christmas meal aid for addicts

A CHARITY that helps people struggling with addiction has received a £1,200 cash boost.

Unite workers at Goodyear in Wolverhampton presented the money to SUIT, which offers help and advice to people recovering from drug and alcohol addiction.

The money will go towards providing a Christmas dinner for up to 150 people who have accessed their services and their families.

The SUIT charity is run by the Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council.

Tourist attraction revamp backed

PART of a Wolverhampton tourist attraction is to get a revamp after plans were approved.

Bosses at Wightwick Manor will create a new lobby for the shop at the Old Manor House on the site.

There will be a new glass door with surrounding glass panels and a wall which will form an internal porch for the shop. The Old Manor House is a Grade II listed building set within the grounds of the grade I listed late Victorian manor house.

Youth brigades in call to new members

A CHRISTIAN youth organisation is seeking new members in Wolverhampton.

The 9th Wolverhampton Company of the Boys Brigade, and the 1st Bilston Company Girls Brigade, are appealing for children aged 5-11 to join.

Boys meet Mondays during termtime, from 6-7.30pm, and girls Wednesday from 6.45-8pm, both at Bilston Baptist Church, Prouds Lane, Bilston. Contact djturner9th@btinternet.com.

Family pub opens

A PUB in Wolverhampton has reopened following an extensive refurbishment. The Spread Eagle in Broad Lane South, Wednesfield, had been closed for three weeks. It has now been converted to a Generous George family pub, which is part of Marston's Inns and Taverns.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Fury over voting for our world champion

MORE than 75,000 people have signed the petitions, and the names still keep coming in. Don't be surprised if 100,000 people have joined the campaign by the end of the week.

And the campaign in question? More support for the flood victims in Cumbria? Tighter security on the Tube? People expressing a view on the bombing of Syria?

Nah, the latest cause celebre of the Guardian-reading classes is whether people should be allowed to vote for world heavyweight boxing champion Tyson Fury in the BBC Sports Personality of the Year awards. Yes, that was keeping me awake at night too.

Now, I know it is well supported, but I've always considered the BBC Sports Personality to be one of the dullest fixtures on the sporting calendar. And having taken Wladimir Klitschko's world title, will Mr Fury really be bothered about a silly little trophy from Clare Balding? Previous winners include Sir Chris Hoy and Sir Steve Redgrave. So I can't wait for the Queen to say "arise, Sir Tyson."

Still, the people who have signed the petition are up in arms because Mr Fury has said fellow nominee Jessica Ennis-Hill "slaps up quite well" and "looks fit in a dress." Silly and coarse, maybe, but what were you expecting from a boxer? A spot of contemporary romantic poetry? A few quotes from Germaine Greer?

Let's leave the petitions to the big stuff, you know the things that affect people's lives. If you really feel strongly and don't want Mr Fury to take the prize, there is still something you can do. Something that will have a real impact on the final outcome. Vote for somebody else.

■ ■ ■

MUSEUMS and police stations are closing, libraries are being staffed by volunteers. Still, it's good to know that at least one area of local authority provision seems to be doing quite well.

Last year local authorities made a £693 million profit from parking charges.

Not revenue, but profit. After all the running costs have been taken into consideration, after all the parking companies have been paid, and after all the street wardens dressed up like the Red Army have been paid. Good to know motorists aren't being treated like a cash cow or anything nasty like that.

Anyway, with all that extra lolly rolling in, you might think that the councils would be able to ease back on a few of the cutbacks. Apparently not. A spokesman for the Local Government Association said that any surplus was only spent on "essential transport projects".

Hmm. So, what, more bus lanes, which clog up our town centres? Cycle paths? Multi-coloured asphalt, speed cameras and road humps? Here's an idea. Drop all that nonsense, and give us free parking. In the places that we want it. Now that's what I call an essential transport project.

The original, by Nancy Sinatra and Lee Hazelwood

The McCarthy/Martin single circa 1991

One half the duet, Eurovision winner Linda Martin

Did You Ever? Super Mick made a record

Former Wolves manager Mick McCarthy enjoyed a short-lived musical career in the 1990s. **PETE CASHMORE** reports

THERE are times in this job when a story lands in your lap that is so perfect that it makes you tremble.

You find yourself itching to get to a keyboard to type it up, so pristine is it in its content.

If it happens to resonate strongly with your readership, then obviously, so much the better. This is one of those situations.

Because this week it came to light that – and even as I type the words, I have to remind myself that this is genuine, this actually happened – Mick McCarthy, the man who took Wolverhampton Wanderers into the top flight, once released a pop single.

Super Mick made a pop record.

What's even better than that, is that it was a Top 20 hit in Northern Ireland. What's even better than that is that it was a duet, and the other half of the duo went on to win the Eurovision Song Contest within a year. Honestly, we really don't know where to begin.

Charts

Okay, so what can we tell you about it? Well, it's called Did You Ever? and it's a cover version of a 1971 single by Nancy Sinatra and Lee Hazelwood, which made number 2 in the UK charts.

Released 20 years after the original, it's a jaunty call-and-response song with vaguely nonsensical lyrics in which the vocalists – a man and a woman – ask each other slightly suggestive questions, the exact nature of which are never fully revealed due to the other vocalist interrupting and answering before we know what they're being asked.

"Did you ever..?
"Not so much, that you could notice.
"Could you estimate how many...?
"Eight or nine.
"Will you do it any more?
"As soon as you walk out the door."

Number 1 – but McCarthy's pop career failed to hit the heights

That kind of thing. All very silly. Well, in this version, the woman vocalist is one Linda Martin, and her in-song paramour is Super Mick.

The song came out before the advent of the internet and as such audio material of it has been pretty hard to find – until now.

The label on which the record came out is long since defunct – perhaps, one might say were one being unkind, because they were reduced to releasing singles by Mick McCarthy – but a website in Ireland was able to secure both a rough audio file of the song itself, via Mick's co-vocalist, and a cover of the cassette version of the single, which shows Mick rocking a purple sweatshirt that is almost as unbelievable as this story.

With the cat out of the bag, Mick has spoken on the subject, and revealed that he can't even remember the title of the song, believing that he actually did a cover version of Nancy Sinatra's biggest hit, These Boots Were Made For Walkin'. One gets the distinct impression that he is more than a little embarrassed by his short-lived pop career.

"I wondered when that might appear," he said. "It was for charity. It's just one of those things.

"When things are going well for you, someone comes and asks you if you'll do it and you wonder at the time if it will come back to haunt you.

"Let me tell you, they had to feed me red wine to get me to sing!"

Interestingly, the song came to pass because of another famous face from the Irish music scene.

Linda Martin said: "Louis Walsh was my manager at the time and he had the brainwave of recording with a footballer. Mick McCarthy was the chosen victim and he was up for a laugh.

Craic

"I'd no nerves about the project at all. Louis also found the song which had been a huge hit for Nancy Sinatra and Lee Hazelwood.

"Mick was totally brilliant, professional and great craic, and if truth be known he has a very good voice."

And it seems like the Irish public agreed with Linda's assessment, because when Did You Ever? was released 24 years ago, it reached number 15 in the Irish charts. McCarthy was playing for Millwall at the time.

Buoyed by this success, Linda went on to represent Ireland at the 1992 Eurovision Song Contest, and her song Why Me? came out on top, and went one to be a number one in Ireland, proving that Mick clearly had the kind of Midas touch that he – briefly – had at the Molineux.

Martin claims that she gave a copy of the single to Jason McAteer and that she believes it was played on the Ireland team bus during Mick's time as manager.

"I believe he was destroyed," she added.

But Mick, being Mick, is quick to pour scorn on the story.

"He never played it," he said. "It's probably just as well because he was hanging by a thread as it was!"

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We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

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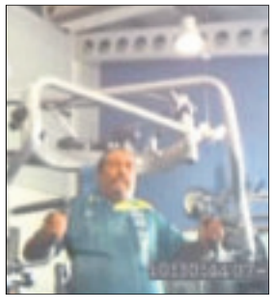
Benefits cheat filmed working out in a gym

STRIDING on a treadmill for 50 minutes, lifting weights and walking downstairs – not bad for a man who claimed he could barely walk.

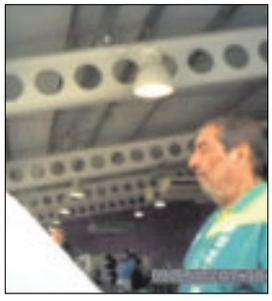
These undercover pictures show 71-year-old Paramjit Randhawa working out at a Black Country gym at the same time he was illegally pocketing thousands in benefits.

Randhawa, of Honor Avenue, Goldthorn Park, claimed £36,000 after telling the Department of Work and Pensions he had severe mobility problems, could only walk 10 metres before feeling severe discomfort and required a walking stick.

However, he was caught out after DWP investigators were tipped off about his improved health and then went undercover to film him working out at a gym at Wednesfield's Bentley Bridge Retail Park.



Peramjit Randhawa on equipment



Peramjit Randhawa in the gym

Peramjit Randhawa striding along a treadmill for 50 minutes non stop

Determined

Randhawa pleaded guilty to failing to notify the DWP about his change in circumstances. His illegal claims went on for more than two and a half years.

A DWP spokeswoman said: "Only a small minority of benefit claimants are dishonest, but cases like this show how we are rooting out the unscrupulous minority who are cheating the system and diverting taxpayers' money from those who really need it.

"We are determined to find those we suspect of abusing the welfare system by following up on tip-offs, undertaking surveillance and working with local councils. Deliberately not informing us of a change in your condition that may affect your claim is a crime.

"Don't wait for our fraud investigators to find you - tell us of a change now. If you suspect someone of fraudulently claiming benefits, then call our National Benefit Fraud Hotline on 0800 854 440."

As well as his session in the gym, Randhawa was recorded walking down the stairs and wandering around the sprawling retail and leisure park.

The claim was legitimate when first made in 1995 and he was paid the top rate of incapacity living allowance for years. But he failed to tell the authorities when his various medical conditions significantly improved.

He pleaded guilty to the offence when his trial was scheduled to start at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

The case was adjourned for a pre-sentence report and he was granted unconditional bail until the week commencing January 11, when full details will be outlined.

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Remembering player as the Best

THANK you Express & Star for remembering George Best anniversary. Being a George Best fan for as long as I can remember, it was nice to read about the sad anniversary of George Best. The greatest footballer, who I still say was the king of them all.

The first time I saw George play on the television, I was only eight years old, the year being 1968. From then on, I was amazed by the skill this footballer had. So then on, I had to become a Man United fan.

I was born in Wolves but I could not support Wolves all because of this great footballer who was like a magician with a ball. I am proud to say that I met George Best on three occasions and he was a gentleman every time that I met him.

The third time I saw him was in Telford with footballer Rodney Marsh in 1994 talking about his career. I took my dad with me, he was in a wheelchair because he had a stroke. When George saw my dad, he treated my dad with a warm welcome, gave him a hug and signed three books for him.

P TAYLOR
Wolverhampton

Swap over to paper bags

IN M&S they ask if you want to buy a bag for the items you have bought, if you don't you would have to carry the garments over your arm. Isn't this encouraging shoplifting?

Yet when I went to Boundary Mill they seem to use their heads by giving you a free plastic bag with larger items.

Most shops are changing to paper bags, nothing new to those who remember them from years ago. They were sturdy and much nicer than your plastic bags.

So to solve the problem and save the environment why don't you just change back to paper bags.

J GROVES
Bilston

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Wolverhampton Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
wolverhampton.chronicles@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

People are allowed own views

AT my age I think that it is about time I 'came out' publicly in that I am not politically correct.

Why do I feel the need to say this? After reading about a young student at Warwick University and the 'treatment' he's had since he said that he didn't need 'consent' lectures as regards sexual relations.

He's been vilified and threats of being attacked. He has been subject to a 'twitter storm' from around the world. Why? Because he had raised his head above the parapet.

He's not the only one. Germaine Greer has had an 'invitation' from a university withdrawn because of her views of transgender.

A comedienne has also had her 'invitation' withdrawn from another because she said prostitutes shouldn't be prosecuted but their 'customers' should instead.

Who gave these bigots the right to say what they want to but stifle the voice of anyone who has a different view to them?

M GOUGH
Wombourne

Billions go on foreign aid but no strategy to help the needy

MY local petrol station/convenience store has installed a purpose-made collection bin for food to donate to the hungry penniless members of the parish. I then read that our wonderful government is increasing foreign aid to £14bn.

I cannot be the only tax payer who is baffled at the priorities of an administration that is mishandling a deficit economy. Money going to corrupt governments in the third world, and monies given to nuclear and space exploration enabled countries.

The cynical thinking of the in store collection bin; let's be seen to help the community, and Joe Public as well as buying his petrol and papers, they will also have an attack of conscious, and buy a tin of food for the needy, more profit for our shareholders, and CEO.

The government can suddenly conjure up billions more for foreign aid, but is not able to implement a strategy to feed and house the more vulnerable in our massively expanding society. Talking to a local counsellor the other day, the subject of arming all the police was discussed; my answer was that only the army and farmers are competent in the use of firearms for these reasons.

1. Trained soldiers are subject to vigorous training, and are conditioned to stringent rules of engagement, they are in possession of their personal weapon 24/7, and fire them regularly, in different scenarios out on exercise, and in conflict on foreign shores (Iraq, Afghanistan, Northern Ireland).

2. In 31 days in March 2015 the police in the USA killed more civilians than the UK police in the last 100 years. One police killing every 6.5 hours.

3. Civilian police do not possess the severe discipline, mind-set, or rigorous constant training required to handle deadly weapons. Arming all the police will see an explosion of illegal firearms in the hands of criminals.

4. A farmer will use his firearm more in a week than a Pc in his lifetime.

5. MPs and government worthless silence on these subjects are deafening in their response.

T LEVY
Wednesfield

Once elected the politicians don't listen to us anymore

QUESTION: who is to blame for the state of this country? Answer: politicians are to blame for everything, obviously, after all, they are in charge, the buck stops with them.

They are to blame for, to name but a few of our woes, the truly mind boggling £1.5tn national debt, which in 2012 equated to £33,000 per worker, it's now much higher than that, the state of the NHS, the chaos in HM revenue and customs, potholed roads, our totally inadequate border controls, resulting in uncontrolled immigration and constant terror threat levels of 'severe'.

An insatiable appetite for wasting our hard earned cash, we are borrowing money to give away in foreign aid so that our esteemed leaders can strut on the world stage, while our steelworkers are being forced on to the dole. The estimated cost of HS2 is now over £60bn, and rising, and on top of that the generally accepted consensus is that our EU membership costs us £55m per day.

So, because politicians are in charge, there can be no excuses, we know who is to blame. They know what they are doing, so that's all right then.

But, hold on for a moment, is it really their fault? We keep voting for these people. We know what and who they are. We know they are dangerously incompetent. We know that they will promise anything that they think we want to hear on the one day in every five years when we actually live in a democracy and they need your vote, but, once elected, they don't listen again for the next five years.

After a few years, due to our tribal voting, they know that they will be back in power to repeat the process.

I SMITH
Penn

Benefits of litter battle

IT'S good to see the litter enforcers successfully helping to get the people who foul the streets of Wolverhampton fined or up before the court.

Whilst there are many areas that need their attention may I suggest Tettenhall Road as an area that could prove lucrative to Kingdom Security's operatives.

The amount of alcohol-related litter on a major route into the city is a disgrace, quite apart from the regular fly-tipping openly conducted.

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Ex-Corrie star in return to Grand as Tinkerbell

THE full line-up for Wolverhampton Grand Theatre's pantomime has been revealed – including a former Coronation Street star.

Lucy Evans is best known for playing the role of Lauren Wilson, the younger sister of Violet Wilson, in the long-running ITV soap.

She will take the role of Tinkerbell, starring alongside The Chuckle Brothers as Paul and Barry Smee, John Altman as Captain Hook and Ross Carpenter as the lead character in Peter Pan.

Hannah Nicholas

Kimmy Edwards

Lucy Evans

Credits

Rehearsals are now under way for the swashbuckling pantomime which opens on December 12. Ms Evans returns to the Grand Theatre following her appearance in the title role of Sleeping Beauty in 2013.

In addition, her television credits include Felicity Smart in the multi-award winning television series Microsoap.

Also joining the cast in the role of Wendy will be pantomime regular Hannah Nicholas. Her credits include Dorothy in The Chuckles of Oz, Catherine in Save The Last Dance For Me and the lead role in Cinderella at Theatre Royal, Plymouth.

And the cast is also bolstered by Birmingham-born and Telford-raised Kimmy Edwards who will play Tiger Lily. After completing her sixth form studies at Thomas Telford School in 2007, she appeared in Legally Blonde, Ghost the Musical, and Memphis.

Starring alongside them are four West Midland boys. Archie Turner, aged eight, from Rowley Regis will play Michael alongside James Shaw, 11, from Bishops Wood as John. On alternate dates, eight-year-old George Passalacqua from Bromsgrove will play Michael while Liam Hewitt, 10 from Kingswinford will play John.

Peter Pan runs until January 24. For tickets call 01902 429212.

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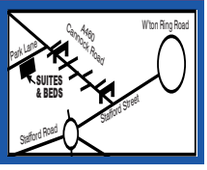

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Celebrating Christmas and 60 years

Wolverhampton Flower Arrangement Club

AT the November meeting, held at Linden House, chairman Maureen Cooper welcomed members and guests to a flower arrangement demonstration by Nigel Wyles of Telford.

He chose as his theme, 'A Diamond Celebration of Christmas', the last in a series of events celebrating the club's diamond anniversary.

He told the members that 60 years ago the ladies of Wolverhampton would come to the meetings wearing hats and gloves. There was a vetting procedure and a long waiting list.

His first arrangement in cool, crisp colours was entitled 'White Christmas', followed by his second, called Christmas Tree.

Using five gold rings as a base, Nigel used grevillea in vibrant colours of pink, orange and yellow and multi-coloured large headed gerberas to create the effect of a firework display in celebration of both Christmas and the club's 60 year anniversary.

In all there were 12 arrangements which were raffled to raise funds for the club. The vote of thanks was given by Eunice Morris and the welcome door arrangement was supplied by Megan Hughes.

The club will move from its present venue to Codsall Village Hall in December and its meetings will now take place on the second Tuesday of the month at 2.30pm. Further information call the club secretary on 01902 762098.

Craft sales raise cash for cancer research

Sedgley Townswomen's craft section enjoy their annual luncheon date

Sedgley E TG

SEDGLEY (E) Guild's craft section held their annual lunch gathering at the Lodge in Dudley. An enjoyable time was had by all.

The guild was also celebrating the success of the open day selling members' crafts.

More than £500 was made, which will go towards Cancer Research.

Cheese, chocolates and glass

Penn Townswomen

THE autumn supper was a very enjoyable evening with a selection of cheeses, pickles and fruit followed by cheesecakes. Each table competed in a quiz on the British Isles.

Gardening Group went to Webb's of Wychbold and indulged in a bit of retail therapy.

At the main guild Meeting, Mrs McInnes introduced Jackie Smith to give a talk and demonstration on the history of chocolate. Jackie has been trading for nine years under the name Nova Chocolates and she brought along samples.

Cacao grows in South America was discovered by the Mayans who used it to make a drink, but other benefits included cocoa butter for sunburn. Cocoa drink was popular in the reign of Charles II but tea and coffee arrived and were cheaper.

In 1824 John Cadbury opened a shop concentrating on cocoa beans and in 1853 he received a Royal Warrant from Queen Victoria. Cadbury's Dairy Milk was launched in 1905.

Social Studies speaker was Cas Bailey who retired from the police after 32 years and decided to enter further education.

She found an ideal one-year course in glass technology followed by a second year designing with glass. Afterwards she set up a workshop and sold her work.

It was a really amusing and informative talk.

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Jobs cut as celebrity stylist closes salons

CELEBRITY hair stylist Lisa Shepherd has closed her two upmarket salons in Wombourne and Birmingham with the loss of nine jobs.

Only her original salon in Kidderminster remains open, with the other branches in Temple Row, Birmingham, and High Street, Wombourne, shutting their doors.

Nine of the 28 staff across all three sites have been made redundant. One stylist, who did not wish to be named, said it had come as a terrible shock to both staff and customers. They were called in for what they thought was a training day but were told the salons were closing and jobs cut.

Ms Shepherd was resident hair-colour expert on Channel 4's 10 Years Younger programme.

Restructure

Her spokeswoman Laura Glazebrook said: "Lisa Shepherd has taken the decision to restructure her hairdressing businesses which spanned Birmingham, Wombourne and Kidderminster.

"Lisa has retained many of her team from across the three salon group but sadly there have been some unavoidable redundancies which Lisa regrets enormously."

The stylist herself added: "Keeping my original salon in Kidderminster means that I can put all my energy, time and resources into this one super salon"

Ms Shepherd started out 24 years ago as a trainee hairdresser at the Brindleyplace salon of the legendary Umberto Giannini. She has since won British Colourist of the Year three times and, in 2005, bagged the most prestigious title – British Hairdresser of the Year.

Hair stylist Lisa Shepherd – two salons are to close

Pet ban over trapped cat

A COUPLE from Codsall have been banned from keeping animals for 15 years after leaving a cat trapped in a flat with no food or water for 48 hours.

The year-old cat was found collapsed and covered in faeces and urine when an RSPCA inspector called at Abigail Clemson's former apartment in Willenhall.

An examination showed the animal had been suffering for 'several weeks', Birmingham magistrates heard. It weighed just over 2lb and had to be put down. Magistrates heard the cat had been left at Clemson's former home while spending more time at partner Thomas Webster's home in Codsall.

Webster and Clemson, both 21, both of Arps Road, were convicted of causing unnecessary suffering.

Both were given a 12-month community order. Webster was ordered to pay £510 costs and Clemson £560. Clemson pleaded guilty to causing unnecessary suffering. Webster was found guilty after a trial.

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Friendly salon still hair after 22 years

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

GEMINI Hair Studio was started 22 years ago by Hazel Graham on October 19, 1993 in Broad Lane, Bradmore, Wolverhampton.

Finding a prime location facing the beautiful Bantock Park was a stroke of luck following a chance conversation with Mike and Debbie at Stallards Cycles, who were looking to move their business into a new unit next door.

The empty cycle shop was quickly transformed into a new hair salon which, at the time, was the only one in the area.

Hazel had previously worked for two successive employers at a salon in Finchfield, having done her training at Mr Nicholas of Tettenhall and doing a day release course at Bilston College.

Hazel Graham and her staff at Gemini Hair Studio, Wolverhampton

Dream

The opportunity to open her own salon arose and, with much help from her parents and other family members, the dream became reality.

"I couldn't have done any of it without mum and dad's input and my brother Richard designed the logo for me, amongst other things," said Hazel.

"My other siblings, Martin and Alison and two sisters-in-law and brother-in-law also all helped in other ways with their support and encouragement," she added.

Surviving the first two weeks completely on her own, she was joined by Liz Williams from the Finchfield salon as a newly-qualified stylist. "Having seen Liz start as a Saturday girl, and helped to train her, I knew she would be a great asset to my new salon and, with a couple of years out to have her family, she is still with me some 22 years later.

"I have seen many faces come and go but Liz has been a constant."

Improved

In recent times, after one or two juniors graduated to stylists but subsequently left, the team have been joined by Keith Potts who left his previous salon after 37 years.

Keith's arrival has greatly improved the salon's business as his loyal clientele followed him. Not forgetting to mention Pat Gittus, who works in the salon as a stylist every Saturday throughout the year.

The salon regularly supports charities, both local and national, the most recent being a Macmillan Coffee weekend when £275 was raised.

Gemini Hair Studio is a very friendly and comfortable salon to visit and offers a full range of treatments which will make your hair look fabulous, especially in the run-up to Christmas.

The team would love to see some new faces and any clients who may have been in past years, so come on in and let them pamper you in to 2016.

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Charity boost as celebrities turn out to aid event

HUNDREDS of pounds was raised as a nationwide cancer charity held its annual celebration evening in Wolverhampton.

Balls to Cancer's Christmas ball was at the Ramada Park Hall Hotel on Saturday, November 28, with celebrities in attendance.

Hollyoaks actor James Sutton, 2015 Celebrity Big Brother runner-up Austin Armacost, Love Island winner Max Morley and 911 singer Jimmy Constable were just a few to greet the 120 guests.

Balls to Cancer founder Mark Bates said: "It was a celebration of what we have done throughout the year and to thank the people who have supported us.

"All we have had back are comments on how good the night was so we've got a lot to live up to.

"We are doing it again next year, in a bigger room with more people."

From left, Austin Armacost, James Sutton, Max Morley, and Jimmy Constable

Grand idea for restaurant in old Post Office next door

THE GRAND Theatre is looking at opening up a restaurant at Wolverhampton's old general post office.

Bosses at the Lichfield Street theatre have made inquiries about taking over the building next door, which has been empty since the post office moved 15m across the road two years ago.

Chief executive Adrian Jackson said that the Grand needed to expand in order to bring in more revenue.

He said that inquiries had been made to 'buy and develop' the neighbouring building, which was ditched by the Post Office under modernisation plans in 2013.

The location of the Grand Theatre means the site is the only reasonable opportunity for expansion, Mr Jackson told a meeting of Wolverhampton council's Stronger City Economy Scrutiny Panel.

He said a proposal to take over the site was currently being developed, with a preferred option of creating the Grand's own on-site restaurant.

Councillor Martin Waite, who sits on the council panel, said the move would be 'fabulous' for the city.

"The Grand is trying to persuade the owner of the former post office building to do a deal at the right price," he said. "Too often people come into the city, watch a show at the theatre and then leave. As a council we want people to spend more time at venues like the Grand to increase revenue."

The property is being marketed by agents JLL and is touted as being 'suitable for restaurant or other leisure use, subject to planning'.

The Grand is undergoing an £800,000 revamp, featuring a new front-of-house area and an Encore Lounge.

Drowned tourist may have dozed off in pool

A WOMAN who drowned on a dream holiday in Thailand may have fallen asleep in her hotel swimming pool, an inquest heard.

Rachel Turner, aged 42, of Wolverhampton, was found face down in the pool by staff at the resort on Koh Chang Island.

She had arrived in the country with her partner Stefan Brown five days earlier and was said to be having the time of her life.

Rachel Turner

An inquest heard they had been for a meal together the night before and shared two bottles of wine before going to bed around 10pm.

The next morning, at around 6.30am, Mr Brown was awoken by the sound of the hotel manager banging on his door and was told Miss Turner, of Bushbury, was dead.

She was found to have 316 milligrammes of alcohol in her blood, almost four times the drink-drive limit – 80 milligrammes of alcohol per 100 ml of blood – as well as prescribed medication.

Tour

She had also taken diazapam. The inquest heard the couple's hotel room opened out right onto the pool. Miss Turner, who was a keen swimmer, is thought to have gone out to the pool during the night.

Mr Brown's mother Susan, who had spoken to Miss Turner via Facetime just hours before she died, added: "She said it was like her own swimming pool."

Mr Brown also told how they would lie back in the pool with their ears under the water and said he believed she may have fallen asleep. The couple had been together for just over a year and were beginning a seven-week tour of Thailand.

The inquest heard how Miss Turner had previously struggled with alcoholism and had entered rehab in 2010.

However, Mr Brown said: "She had never been so happy. She was in awe of the place."

Black Country Senior Coroner Zafar Saddique, recording a verdict of accidental death, said: "It is more likely than not she was lying in the pool floating and has fallen asleep."

There was no signs of a struggle.

Services in memory of lost loved ones

VISITORS can light candles in memory of loved ones at at Bushbury Crematorium's annual Christmas Memorial Carol Services this weekend.

The ceremonies aim to bring comfort to people who have lost someone dear to them. People taking part will be invited to light a candle and attach a personal message for a family member or friend to the Christmas tree in Bushbury Crematorium's West Chapel.

The services take place on Sunday, December 13, led by members of the New Cross Hospital Chaplaincy Team, with the first beginning at 1pm and a second at 3pm.

Councillor Steve Evans, cabinet member for city environment, said: "These are very uplifting events which give people an opportunity to remember loved ones who are sadly no longer with them."

The services are free, but tickets should be reserved in advance on 01902 556070 between 9am and 4pm.

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Students in farewell to music chief

STAFF and pupils are getting ready to bid farewell to a music teacher who is retiring after 33 years.

As the director of music at Tettenhall College in Wolverhampton, Ian Wass has been the mastermind behind dozens of lavish musicals involving many pupils of all age groups at the school's Towers Theatre. He also directed the school choirs, organised all musical tuition and has prepared the pupils and parents for more than 30 professional performances at the Grand Theatre.

Mr Wass said: "I have had a most enjoyable time at the college, which is a very special place."

He will be replaced as director of music by Miss Catharine Douglas, who joins the school from New Zealand where she has been head of music at Kirstin School, Auckland.

Police brake on speeding

POLICE officers are working to stamp out speeding in Wolverhampton.

Speed cameras will be out in force over the next couple of months.

The following locations have been raised as priority locations,Yew Tree Lane and Henwood Road, Tettenhall; Bhylls Lane, Merry Hill, and Penn Road Penn.

Pro laser patrols will be conducted at these locations during the next couple of months.

FOCUS ON TETTENHALL

Battling residents triumph as apartments plan blocked

PLANS for 58 apartments for the elderly on land at Tettenhall College have been unanimously rejected by Wolverhampton City Council.

Proposals from developers McCarthy and Stone for apartments at the Wood Road site were blocked by councillors at the planning committee.

by Nick Humphreys

Under plans, the site would have been redeveloped with the apartments with a residents' lounge, dining room, staff accommodation, mobility scooter charging points, a guest suite and outdoor space.

There would also be 27 car parking spaces, two multi-use games areas and a car park to serve the college.

Petition

The council received 30 representations, 26 objected and four supported the scheme, and a 20-signature petition. In the meeting, Chris Ager, a Tettenhall resident for 20 years, spoke on behalf of fellow objectors.

She told the committee: "We are vehemently against these plans. The building which is being proposed is completely out of character. It is too large and bulking.

"The residents at the apartments will still have active lifestyles. They will have visitors and presumably care and assistance, and will be coming and going, possibly in their own cars. So 27 parking spaces won't be sufficient and it will cause traffic problems.

"We are not saying we don't welcome developers, but some consideration should be given, it's a beautiful green area that people enjoy visiting and it shouldn't be degraded. The proposal looks like it's off the shelf, a flat pack.

Lisa Mathewson, planning agent for McCarthy and Stone, said: "We have worked hard to design this project and believe it would benefit the area.

"Part of the work will involve the much-needed repair of buildings at Tettenhall College."

But councillors rejected the proposals. Councillor Wendy Thompson, said: "It is out of keeping with the historic buildings nearby."

Artist's impression of the scheme for the apartments for the elderly which has been rejected

Solicitor is subject of complaint

A COMPLAINT has been made against a Wolverhampton solicitor in connection with the failed investment scheme headed by ex-Wolves star Michael McIndoe.

Legal watchdog the Solicitors Regulation Authority said it wants 'to look more closely' into the complaint against Mike Dawson, who runs Dawson Solicitors in Mount Road, Tettenhall Wood, to help it decide 'what action may need to be taken'.

In a letter to a complainant, the authority adds: "We try to build a complete picture of the issues involved, which can be time consuming."

No wrongdoing is implied.

The Solicitors Regulation Authority confirmed it had received a complaint.

Mr Dawson was not available for comment when contacted.

Planning for that big day

BRIDES-TO-BE can get a helping hand with planning their big day at a wedding fair early next year.

The Heavenly Events Wedding Fair will be held at The Mount Hotel, Tettenhall on Sunday, February 7, from noon to 3.30pm.

Admission is free and a free goody bag will be handed out to the first 50 couples to attend.

For more information or to book a stand call 07974 559585.

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Sporting stars gear up for city famous honour

THE face of Moto GP, a former England cricket captain and an Olympic hopeful.

These sports stars are some of Wolverhampton's most well-known children who, after helping put the city on the map, are being recognised at next year's Wolverhampton's Famous Sons & Daughters event.

Suzi Perry, Baroness Rachael Heyhoe-Flint and Andy Tennant are all set to be honoured as they join cricketer Vikram Solanki and former Bank of England Chief Mervyn King on the list of winners for the awards on February 25 next year.

Ms Perry, from Cosford, who presented Moto GP for 13 years on the BBC and currently hosts the channel's Formula One coverage, said she is 'really proud' of her roots.

Logo for special awards

Andy Tennant leads the way

Rachael Heyhoe-Flint

Honoured – presenter Suzi Perry

Celebrate

She said of her nomination: "This is hugely flattering. I'm really proud of my roots and where I'm from. It's a great way to celebrate all the achievements of Wolverhampton and I'm thrilled to fly the flag."

There are set to be two more recipients of awards next year, and the Express & Star will reveal their names next month. Past Sons and Daughter award winners include Liam Payne, Denise Lewis and Hugh Porter, the latter of which will be interviewing next year's winners on stage after they have been presented with their award.

Taking place at Molineux, the 2016 awards evening will be compared by Dickie Dodd, the programming manager at Signal Radio.

The awards have been organised by Wolverhampton University, the council, Partners in Progress and the Express & Star.

Diane Davies, the deputy editor of the Express & Star, said: "The Express & Star is delighted to be involved with the Famous Sons and Daughters awards which recognise and reward some of the true ambassadors for Wolverhampton and the Black Country."

Businesses from around the city are being urged to buy places at the evening which includes a drinks reception, dinner and the awards ceremony.

A table for 10 people costs £600 or in individual ticket £60. Those interested in booking places can call Chris Bywater or Isobel Bennett at First City on 01902 710999 or email chris@firstcity.co.uk

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Inside the Sandford Carpets showroom where they sell a wide range of flooring products

Kim and Gary from Sandford Carpets

The family-run business was originally based in a garden log cabin but has expanded

SANDFORD CARPETS opened the showroom and warehouse on the Trysull Rd, Bradmore, Wolverhampton in October 1989.

Sandford carpets has a huge selecton of wool and man made carpets, vinyl's, karndean, laminate and hardwood flooring. Also a fantastic collection of rugs in stock from £25 with 20% off until the end of December 2015 OR design your own Crucial Trading custom made rug in any size . Turtle mats and doormats available.

It is run by husband and wife team Gary and Kim who will help with advice on quality and colour and will allow you to take away samples to try at home.

From the distinctive wood cabin frontage the showroom looks only small, yet at the rear is a massive warehouse where over 90 rolls of carpet are displayed along with lots of end of rolls. They also sell Ulster, Axminster and Victoria carpets and all hard flooring such as: Karndean, real wood and engineered wood together with laminates and vinyl's all at very competitive affordable prices which are genuinely low all year round. A visit to the huge warehouse is highly recommended and customers will be spoilt for choice.

Sandford Carpets are a platinum dealership for Brintons for the Wolverhampton area.

The level of service provided by Sandford Carpets is of a very high level with a dedicated, skilled work force that have built a excellent reputation over the many years trading in Wolverhampton. They also sell a range of clocks by Newgate, prints and knicknacks for your home. A free measuring service is available and the fitters are experts, if you need them to take up old carpets and move furniture they will do that for you.

New £6m youth zone is the Way ahead for city

'THIS will make a genuine difference to the city', 'the transformation is incredible', 'the facilities are as good as any in the region'.

Just some of the endorsements from Wolverhampton's great and good as they took a first look at the city's new £6m youth zone.

Three years in the making, The Way opens its doors to hundreds of youngsters in January. The School Street building is already lighting up part of the city skyline in an area which, combined with the new £60m Sainsbury's supermarket and soon-to-be-complete Marston's headquarters, has undergone a striking overhaul in the past two years.

Outgoing Wolves owner Steve Morgan is behind the project.

Roger Lawrence and Keith Ireland

Steve Bull and Jez Moxey

Steve Morgan with Kavae Cespedes-Smith and Sensi Cespedes-Hudson

Proud

"It's been a fantastic journey," he said. "This place belongs to the city of Wolverhampton and it belongs to the young people of Wolverhampton. I'm very proud, it's the best youth zone yet and it's going to be fantastic for the city."

And its many patrons, backers and supporters – some of whom have donated tens of thousands of pounds to the project – were given a pre-launch first look at the state-of-the-art centre.

Wolves chief executive Jez Moxey said the city could be proud of the youth zone and paid tribute to outgoing Wolves owner Morgan.

"I'm delighted that it's finished and in the new year hundreds of youngsters in Wolverhampton will benefit from what are as good a set of facilities as you'll find anywhere in the region," he said. "This really will make a difference.

"If they're here learning, being nurtured, doing something positive, then they're not outside doing something negative.

The building will cater for youngsters aged eight to 19, seven days a week. It houses a 4G football pitch, cricket, basketball, table tennis, pool and climbing wall facilities, music and dance hall, fitness gym, computer room for employment skills lessons, arts and crafts room, boxing gym, radio booth, media room and kitchen. Youngsters will also be mentored off the streets and into employment.

"They're really tackling the important issues," said businessman Henry Carver, who along with Marston's, Wolverhampton Homes, City of Wolverhampton College, and the University of Wolverhampton among many more, has backed the project.

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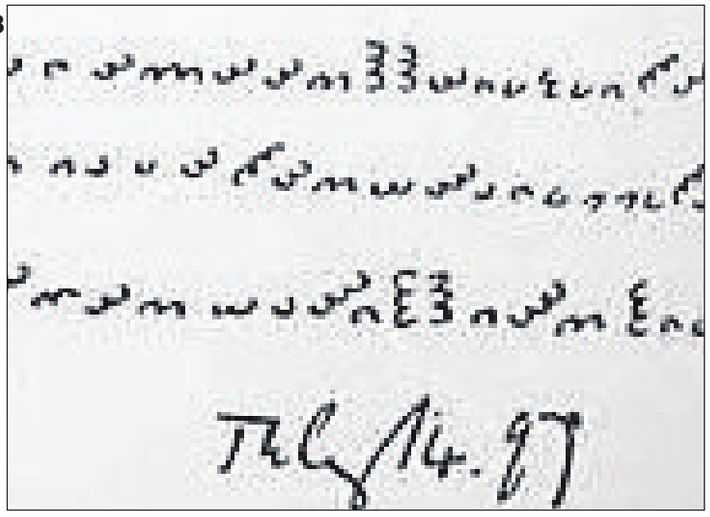
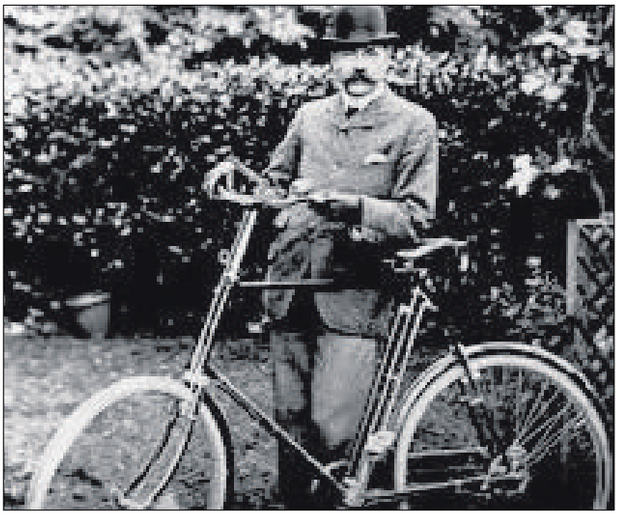


The Dorabella cipher, written by Elgar to Dora, but which remains unsolved

Composer Edward Elgar



Elgar on his Sunbeam bike on which he cycled many miles

Composer's secret Dorabella code remains an Enigma to this day

WHAT is the circle of connection between Edward Elgar, Sunbeam, the Wolves, a local girl named Dora Penny and the World War Two German cipher machine?

MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

Dora Penny was born in 1874 at Swindon, near Trysull, the daughter of the Rev Alfred Penny. Her mother died just six days later, and she was raised by her grandmother.

Dora's father became a missionary in Melanesia for 12 years, and on his return to become rector of St Peter's in Wolverhampton, married Mary Baker who was a friend of the composer Elgar's wife, Caroline Alice. The Elgars came to visit the Rectory, which was on Waterloo Road right opposite Wolves Molineux ground, convenient for Elgar, as he was a fervent Wolves fan, and could stay with them when he came to a match.

He and Dora became great friends, despite her being 17 years his junior, and he sometimes took her to matches. They were both enthusiastic cyclists, on their Wolverhampton-built Sunbeams. Dora on at least one occasion cycled by herself the 40 miles to Malvern to visit him, passing, on the way, the Sunbeam factory on the Penn Road, and near her birthplace at Swindon.

When Elgar published his Enigma Variations, the piece of music which made his name as a composer, he revealed that the 14 variations within it were each inspired by and based on, one of his circle of close friends, the 10th being named Dorabella, his nickname for Dora.

Elgar was a great enthusiast for codes and ciphers, and never revealed what the 'Enigma' was within the work, and musicologists and code breakers have argued what it might be, with the latest theory being Pi. The first four notes are the scale degrees 3,1,4,2, in G Minor, or Pi, expressed as a decimal, and Pi represents the circumference of a circle. His circle of friends?

Elgar also compiled a personal code for Dora, the so-called Dorabella Cipher. To this day no-one has ever been able to decipher it. It consists of 87 characters spread over three lines, and appears to be made up from 24 symbols, each comprising one, two or three approximate semicircles oriented in one of eight directions.

It is said the the German Enigma coding machine, invented originally as a civilian machine in the early 1920s, was named in honour of Elgar's love of ciphers.

Elgar's friend Dora Penny, aka Dorabella

Goodyear workers' fury at Bayern deal

GOODYEAR workers are up in arms after discovering the firm has signed a sponsorship deal with Bayern Munich FC beginning on January 1 – the day the first wave of Wolverhampton staff will be made redundant.

More than 300 jobs will be axed at the Bushbury Lane plant and staff are furious the firm has signed the new deal in light of the planned closure.

Bayern Munich stars Philipp Lahm and Franck Ribéry were pictured holding shirts printed with the Goodyear name following the announcement of the deal. Wayne Devaney, who has worked at the tyre plant for 28 years, said: "Goodyear do it again, not content to close a world class plant in Wolverhampton, they sign a deal with Bayern Munich Football Club. You couldn't write it could you?"

The multi-year agreement includes perimeter advertising at all Bundesliga home games.

Darren Wells, president of Goodyear EMEA, said: "This partnership will play a key role in Goodyear's brand strategy with integrated marketing and sales communications."

The Bushbury plant will shut completely by January 2017.

Bayern's Franz Beckenbauer, Juergen Titz from Goodyear, Philipp Lahm and Franck Ribéry

Praise for raids in tobacco crackdown

POLICE and trading standards officers have been praised for carrying out raids in Wolverhampton in a crackdown on illegal tobacco.

Eight shops were targeted along Dudley Road, Blakenhall, after months of investigations.

In total, officers seized £5,000 of illicit cigarettes, chewing tobacco and blunts and 21 boxes of packets of chewing tobacco and three boxes of packets of the banned 'oral tobacco' from two premises.

Action was also taken against two suspected illegal immigrants as a result of the raids, the second carried out this year in the city as part of Operation Riposte.

Blakenhall ward councillor John Rowley said: "It must be a matter of concern that illegal substances including chewing tobacco were apparently being sold. Initiatives like Operation Riposte must continue until this form of criminal practice ceases."

Cellar was used for production of cannabis

A MAN desperate to provide his daughter with a mobility scooter allowed his Wolverhampton cellar to be turned into a cannabis factory to raise funds, a court heard.

A total of 132 cannabis plants were found at the flat belonging to Peter Ireson in Tettenhall Road, Newbridge, which it was estimated could have produced a yield worth £33,000.

Report by Rob Cox

Michael Grey, defending, told Wolverhampton Crown Court that Ireson had been unable to work for several years because of an injury to his wrist so could not legitimately afford the kit to aid his daughter who has cerebral palsy.

Ireson, aged 64, was given a 14-month suspended sentence last week having previously pleaded guilty to the production of a controlled drug, namely cannabis.

He was also made subject to a rehabilitation activity requirement for a minimum of 25 days.

Pain

As the sentence was read out, Ireson put his hand on his chest and told Judge James Burbidge 'you have been extremely fair and understanding.'

Mr Grey told the court an operation to Ireson's wrist in 2013 had gone 'spectacularly wrong' leaving him in constant pain and unable to work.

He said two men suggested to his client the use of his cellar to grow cannabis could be a good way for him to make money.

Police carried out a warrant to search the flat on May 18 and found all three rooms of the cellar were being used to produce the drug. The equipment being used included high-power lamps and extractor fans and it was estimated the crop could yield up to 11kg of cannabis, worth around £33,000 if sold.

Ireson was arrested and accepted his involvement, stating to police his motivation had been to raise money for the mobility scooter which would cost him around £2,000.

Mr Grey said: "It was apparent throughout his interview that his main concern has been for his daughter who has cerebral palsy. He sees her every week but is very conscious he has difficulty helping her in her basic daily needs because of his arm.

"He wanted some money to buy her a mobility scooter and a specially designed frame. Because he wasn't working he could not afford the items."

In committing the crime Ireson breached a conditional discharge for an offence of battery. He was given a one month suspended sentence to run concurrently with the sentence for producing cannabis.

Adult education provision lauded

OFSTED'S chief inspector has praised Wolverhampton Council for its 'outstanding' adult education provision.

The service was given the top tier rating by the watchdog in January following an inspection the previous month.

Outcomes for learners, the quality of teaching, learning and assessment and the effectiveness of leadership and management were all highly praised.

The service delivers a wide range of courses, including arts and crafts, creative studies, languages, English, maths, ICT, teaching and care.

Last week chief inspector Sir Michael Wilshaw highlighted the services's achievements, using it as a case study in his annual report. He wrote: "The management of staff performance was particularly effective in assuring a very high standard of teaching and learning.

"Tutors and support staff had realistically high expectations for all learners."

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Inmate hanged himself after smoking report

A FATHER-OF-FIVE hanged himself in a cell at Featherstone Prison after being reported for smoking in the toilets, an inquest heard.

Prison authorities failed to properly investigate Karl Bough's misuse of drugs and his complaints of bullying in the lead-up to his death, it was said.

The 27-year-old from Walsall, who was serving a five-year sentence for armed robbery, denied smoking in the toilets and smashed up his cell when he returned to it. He was moved to another, South Staffordshire Coroners Court heard, and the next morning, on November 5, 2014, he was found hanged with torn bedsheets.

Father of five Karl Bough

Coroner Andrew Haigh

Scene of cell tragedy – Featherstone prison

Note

A search of his cell uncovered a 'farewell note' which read: "It's like I'm two different people. My mind is split into a good side but I can't control the other side. It's dangerous so I'm going to stop it before I do something I regret."

A jury sitting at Stafford Crown Court returned a verdict of suicide while suffering from low mood. The panel also agreed with the Prison and Probation Ombudsman (PPO) investigation's findings which blamed Featherstone for not adequately probing Mr Bough's drug misuse or his complaints of bullying and assault.

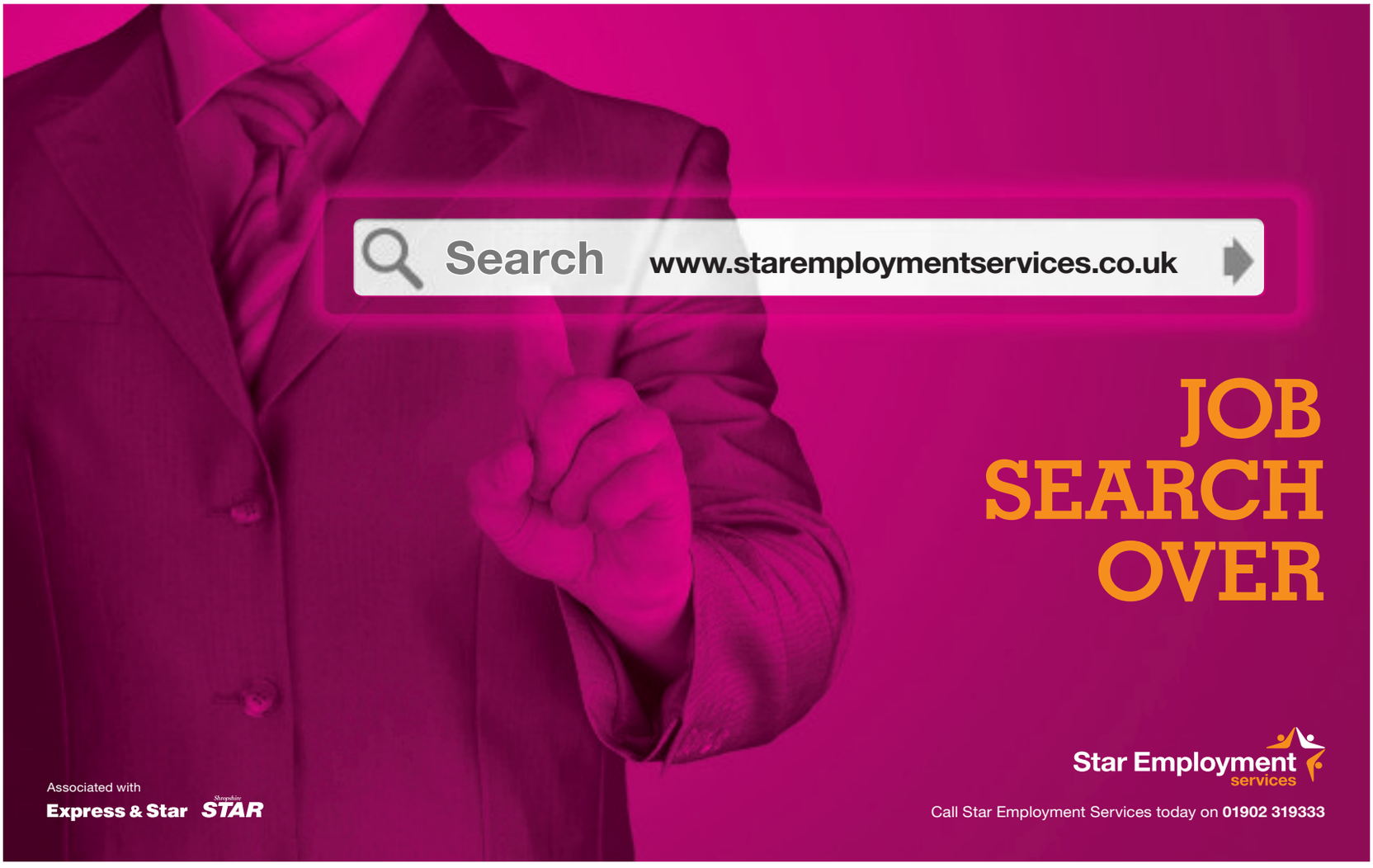
However they agreed with the PPO's conclusion that 'his death could not have been anticipated'.

Earlier, coroner Andrew Haigh and the jury heard from witnesses who described the hours leading to Mr Bough's death. Anthony Taylor, a kitchen supervisor said: "He was a pleasant lad but had been disciplined in the past for stealing chicken and flour from the kitchen. On November 4 he appeared to be in a good mood when he asked to go the toilet where I noticed smoke coming from a cubicle he was sharing with another cell mate.

"He denied he was smoking but I told him I'd have to report him and he got very angry throwing a mug against the wall. Ten officers were called to escort him back to the wing."

Retired senior officer Gareth Shearsby said Mr Bough came to see him on October 16, 2014, inviting a search of his cell for contraband.

He said: "He wanted to get rid of stuff he was holding and said he was feeling the pressure of other prisoners who were making him store things in his cell for them. He talked about being bullied and depressed but declined any intervention."



fast the ticket

Hairspray

Preview – Page 23

Chuckle time!

Peter Pan panto is here

See Page 23

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Stereophonics

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Fri at 7.30pm, £28.50 - £29.50
Wolverhampton Civic Hall, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

Tue at 7.30pm - 10pm, £28.50 - £29.50
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Def Leppard & Whitesnake
Sat at 6.45pm, £45.70
Genting Arena, Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

The Selecter
Sun at 7pm, £16.50
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Into The Shadows: Shadows Tribute
Sat at 7.30pm, £10 - £15
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

The Darkness
Fri at 6pm, £25
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Slaves
Wed at 7pm - 11pm, £13.50
The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Stereophonics
Fri at 7.30pm, £33.20 - £48.20
Genting Arena, Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

Slade: Classic Hits
Thu at 9.45pm,
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Iain Mackenzie And Georgina Jackson: Frank Sinatra: Tribute
Sat at 7.30pm - 10pm, £12.50 - £37.50
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Joe Carnall Jnr
Thu at 7pm - 10pm,
The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN.
Call 01384 397177

Talon: Eagles Tribute
Sat at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Sun at 7.30pm,
Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

Black Star Riders
Thu at 7pm,
Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

Peter Cox & Richard Drummie
Fri at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

The Space Hoppers
Fri at 8pm,
Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
Call 01384 374410

The Wonder Stuff
Thu at 7pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

The Stubble Brothers
Thu at 12am,
Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
Call 01384 374410

Space
Fri at 7pm, £14
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

The Sex Pissed Dolls
Sun at 7.30pm, £12
The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN. Call 01384 397177

The Charlatans
Sat at 7pm, £27.50
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Fallout
Fri at 10pm, £3-£5
The Grapes, Stafford
ST16 2HZ. Call 07989 174631

Club Berlin
Sat at 8pm
Knight's Quest, Rowley Regis B65 0EE. Call 0121 561 5599

The Beatles tribute Help!
Sat at 8pm, £6/£8
Arena Aldridge, Walsall, WS9 8QR.
Call 0844 884 2920

FOLK & ACOUSTIC

Arthur Doherty Band
Wed at 7.30pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

Kieran Halpin
Fri at 7.30pm,
Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN.
Call 01902 572090

Luna Rossa
Sun at 7.45pm,
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Live And Picking
Thu at 7.30pm, £5
Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN.
Call 01902 572090

The Urban Voodoo Machine
Wed at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Irish Music Session
Wed at 8pm,
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB. Call 01384 374410

JAZZ, SOUL & BLUES

Sam Coombes Trio
Fri at 5pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Jersey Boys
Tue at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

The Delray Rockets
Sun at 8pm, Free
The Grapes, Stafford, ST16 2HZ. Call 07989 174631

Tim Jenks - 'Realms of Glory'
Sun at 7.30pm
Holy Trinity Church, Heath Town, Wolverhampton.
Call 01902 754487

Tim Jenks - Unplugged
Wed at 8pm
Claregate Pub, Wolverhampton, WV6 9ED.
Call 01902 754761

Wabash Jazz Four
Sun at 1pm
Albrighton Sports and Social Club, WV7 3QT.
Call 01902 756158

CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

The Birmingham Canoldir Male Choir Spirit Of Christmas
Thu at 7pm,
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

Andre Rieu And The Johann Strauss Orchestra
Wed at 7pm,
£45.70 - £105.70
Genting Arena, Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

Christmas With The Salvation Army
Sun at 2.30pm, 6pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Christmas Carol Concerts
Mon, Tue at 7.30pm
Wightwick Manor and Gardens, Wolverhampton, WV6 8EE.
Call 01902 760100

Metropolitan Brass Quintet
Sat at 10.30am,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

So This Is Christmas
Wed at 8pm - 10.30pm,
£21 - £26
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

The Ukulele Orchestra Of Great Britain
Mon at 7.30pm, £24
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Only Men Aloud
Mon at 7.30pm - 10pm,
£27.50
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

THEATRE

The Nutcracker
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 22.30pm, 7.30pm, Sun at 1pm,
£19 - £56
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Beyond The Barricade
Sat at 12am, £19.50 - £21.50
Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

The Lion The Witch And The Wardrobe
Fri at 10.15am, 2.30pm, Sat at 2pm, Mon at 2.30pm, Tue at 10.15am, 2.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm, Thu at 10.15am, 2.30pm,
£7.50 - £35
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

The Singular Exploits Of Sherlock Holmes
Thu at 7.30pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Stafford, ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

Jack And The Beanstalk
Sat at 2.30pm, 6.30pm, Mon at 10.30am, 1.30pm, Tue at 10.30am, 1.30pm, Wed at 10.30am, 1.30pm, Thu at 10.30am, 1.30pm,
Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE.
Call 01527 65203

That'll Be The Day Christmas Show 2015
Sat at 7.30pm - 10pm, £25
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

Andy Williams' Christmas Spectacular Starring The Osmonds
Thu at 7.30pm, £27.50 - £150
Wolverhampton Civic Hall, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

Peter Pan
Sat at 2.30pm, 7.15pm, Sun at 2pm, 6pm,
Tue - Thu at 2.30pm, 7.15pm,
£17 - £31.50
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

Dynamo
Until Sun, times vary
33.20 - £99.70
Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, B1 2AA. Call 0121 780 4141

Hairspray
Mon - Thu at 7pm,
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

COMEDY

Paddy McGuinness: Daddy McGuinness
Sat at 7.30pm, £17.50 - £36
Wolverhampton Civic Hall, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

Ken Dodd: The Happiness Show
Sun at 7pm,
Wolverhampton Civic Hall, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

Tom Stade: You're Welcome!
Wed at 8pm, £16.50 - £18.70
Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

TALKS

Dr John Cooper Clarke
Sun at 7.30pm,
£16.50 - £26.95
Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

It's panto time, from Smee to you

Get ready for a Chuckle or two — The Chuckle Brothers with John Altman as Captain Hook and Ross Carpenter as Peter Pan

PANTOMIME season is here, oh yes it is, with Wolverhampton Grand Theatre's swashbuckling panto Peter Pan opening on Saturday and running until January 24.

Produced by Qdos Entertainment, the world's biggest panto producer, this year's Christmas show stars family favourites The Chuckle Brothers as Paul and Barry Smee, EastEnders actor John Altman as Captain Hook, Coronation Street's Lucy Evans as Tinkerbell and newcomer Ross Carpenter as Peter Pan.

Showbiz veterans Paul and Barry Elliott, real life brothers better known to millions as The Chuckle Brothers, are regular favourites at Wolverhampton, performing at the Grand Theatre every year as part of the UK tours. It has been 22 years since Paul and Barry were last at the Grand for a panto season.

In 1993 they played the Henchmen in Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs alongside Linda Lusardi and Stu Francis.

John Altman is best known as 'Nasty' Nick Cotton in EastEnders and was among the show's original cast in 1985. Lucy Evans played the role of Lauren Wilson in long-running ITV soap Coronation Street.

Tickets can be booked by calling 01902 42 92 12 or online at the www.grandtheatre.co.uk website.

Back to the 60s with Hairspray

WELCOME to the 60s when the cast of Hairspray lacquer up their beehives and quiffs for a soul-singing and dancing alternative to panto in the West Midlands this festive season.

Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre will play host to the musical which will star Benidorm favourite Tony Maudsley in a frock as Edna Turnblad, a role played by John Travolta in the movie version of the show.

Hairspray is being performed 22 times at the venue from December 14 to January 2 as part of a national tour. Set in 1962 Baltimore, Hairspray tells the story of high school student Tracy and her dreams to dance her way on to national TV and break the colour bar that stops black and white youngsters dancing together. Freya Sutton will play Tracy, for which she won acclaim during the show's UK tour in 2013.

Tony Maudsley is best known as hairdresser Kenneth in the Costa Del Sol-set TV comedy series and can also be seen in The Job Lot. Ex-Blue Peter presenter Peter Duncan will play Edna's ever-loving husband Wilbur and Liverpudlian actress Claire Sweeney will be play villainous Velma Von Tussle with X Factor star Brenda Edwards as Motormouth Maybelle

General manager of the New Alexandra Theatre, Andrew Lister, said: "We always feel we have a unique offering here at the venue for the festive period and this year is no exception."

Hairspray won eight Tony Awards on Broadway and had a hit run in the West End where the Ednas included Michael Ball, Phil Jupitus and Brian Conley.

Merry times with festive laughter

LAUGH your way into the season with veteran comic Ken Dodd celebrating 60 years in showbiz with his Laughter Show at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Sunday. Don't anticipate an early night as the Liverpudlian comedian has a reputation for giving plenty of value for money.

Ed Byrne is at the Wulfrun Hall tonight (Thu), the same night that Mock The Week regular Andy Parsons is at Birmingham Town Hall. Paddy McGuiness talks about fatherhood in his Daddy McGuinness show at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Saturday. Canadian comedian Tom Stade, who used to live in the Black Country, is at the Wulfrun Hall on Wednesday.

String along for a plucky performance

THE Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain celebrate 30 Plucking Years at Birmingham's Symphony Hall on Monday. Expect a fun time with eight ukuleles, 16 hands and 32 strings, and one happy audience.

There's an audience with the Bard of Salford when punk poet John Cooper Clarke brings his sharp wit to the Wulfrun Hall on Sunday.

On Monday vocal group Only Men Aloud present their Christmas show at Birmingham Town Hall. Jools Holland and his Rhythm and Blues Orchestra have sold out their December 17 gig at the Symphony Hall.

Easy listening stars are out and about

KING of the waltz, Dutch violinist André Rieu brings his Johann Strauss Orchestra to the Genting Arena on Wednesday.

It's Christmas Party time with The Overtones at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, tomorrow (Fri) and the Sinatra Centenary concert is at the same venue on Saturday. Christmas with The Neales at Birmingham Town Hall is a Sunday home date for the family group from Britain's Got Talent. Merrill, Jay and Jimmy Osmond recreate the cosy magic of The Andy Williams Christmas Special, the US TV show that made their name, at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Thursday, December 17.

Wolverhampton Chronicle Thursday, December 10, 2015

Plenty of grandeur – sit back and admire The Lawns main dining area

The lobster dish that helped win Mat regional chef title

Prosecco anyone? Staff will bring you some bubbly to go with your bubbles

The very Parisienne chic decor is perfect for a girls' getaway

This festive treat is a real feast and it's just too, too good to wait for

By Maria Bagnall

CHRISTMAS. Yes. It's well and truly hurtling towards us and with it comes the frantic shopping trips and hopes for weather to produce that special ambiance only a sprinkling of snow can create. Fingers crossed.

As unpredictable as the British weather may be, Thornton Hall's spa is one place you are guaranteed the white stuff whatever the forecast, albeit in a small corner of Cheshire with the UK's only snow cave.

You can't exactly build a snowman, but fresh powder on your body after a blast in the sauna certainly invigorates the senses – be sure to wear flip flops as due to the chilly floor you'll end up showing off your best Happy Feet penguin impression to people looking much cooler than you. Roughly 60 miles from Wolverhampton in The Wirral, the four-star Thornton Hall hotel is within easy reach and an ideal place to base yourself for some festive down time or, as the season demands, stocking up on gifts as it's just five minutes from designer shopping outlet Cheshire Oaks.

Extensive

But there is much, much more to Thornton Hall than its snow cave, extensive gym, spa and outdoor hot tub area where staff bring you Prosecco to wash down your strawberries.

The real treat is in the Lawns Restaurant where its three AA Rosettes for fine dining has attracted an exemplary team to dish up a sublime selection of dishes ranging from lobster to lamb and a magnificent cheese board with around 40 deliciously whiffy options.

As one of eight regional finalists for the Great British Menu last year, you'd expect something pretty special from chef Matt Worswick's menu and it doesn't disappoint.

A hot spot for the regions' finest dining, there are various options to chose from, but as a huge fan of the series it was an unmissable opportunity to tuck into the very same tasty tidbits those lucky judges enjoyed in the finals with the four-course tasting menu and wine to accompany each course – who could resist?

Fellow diners are supposed to have the same menu but with so many options my partner chose from the main menu, giving us a good cross section of dishes.

Describing courses individually would turn this review into a Lord of the Rings style epic series. Suffice to say each dish was imaginative, presented with perfection containing balanced flavours. I found the whole experience right up my street from the 36-page wine list, a great selection of gins like the Botanist and Hendricks, to views of open countryside from the outdoor hot tubs, an exemplary team of staff throughout the hotel.

Even the bar ladies who served up zingy lemon sherbet cocktails in the opulent bar with metallic low lights, rich embroidered fabrics and cool retro furniture left me a bit lost for words.

But one thing's for sure, Thornton Hall is a feast for the senses in every sense of the word and deserving of its exemplary reputation. I'll definitely be heading back…and won't be waiting until next winter.

star extra TRAVEL London Theatre Breaks

Choose your show, price band and how you want to travel*

Rail inclusive breaks – Two or three days

Departures most weekends

Saturday Night Theatre from £169.95

Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital. There's a choice of London hotels (hotel supplements may apply) and your ticket is for a Saturday evening performance.

Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.

Theatre Showstopper from £239.95

This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening.

Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade plus two nights stay at a four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply). Includes a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance.

Coach inclusive breaks – Two days

Selected weekend departures

Saturday Night from £149.95

Theatre Weekend with Dinner from £159.95

Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing.

For the Theatre Weekend with Dinner option see the matinee performance before heading to the hotel for an evening meal. The Saturday Night option includes a ticket for the show to see an evening performance.

Both breaks include a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel plus full English breakfast.

Pick-up points offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

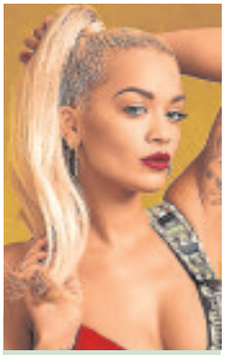
**The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single rooms subject to availability – supplements apply.*

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

For a theatre brochure please call the promotions team on (01902) 319999 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm), or go to expressandstar.com/starextratravel

Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

CHOICE



Rita Ora

The X Factor (ITV, 8pm)
The three finalists assemble for the first of this weekend's live Grand Final shows. Weeks of lively auditions, gruelling boot camps and nerve-jangling live shows come to a head over the next two nights, but before the winner is named, the would-be pop-stars must first make it through two more showdowns, as judges Simon Cowell, Rita Ora, Cheryl Fernandez-Versini and Nick Grimshaw are once again called upon to deliver their verdict on each act's singing prowess. The act with the lowest public-vote figures will face an early exit from the contest. Naturally, the stakes are the highest they've ever been for the hopeful pop icons, and as ever, presenter duo Olly Murs and Caroline Flack are on hand to provide moral support.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Simply Nigella. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** Lewis Hamilton: Making History – F1 2015 Review. **2.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **3.00 Film:** Toy Story. (1995) Pixar animated adventure, with the voice of Tom Hanks. **4.15** Final Score. **5.15** Celebrity Mastermind. (R) **5.45** BBC News. **5.55** Regional Programme.

6.00 Pointless Celebrities. Louis Theroux, Nancy Strang, Michael Underwood, Angellica Bell, Calum Best, Angie Best, Gary Lineker and Harry Lineker take part in a family-themed edition of the quiz.

6.50 Strictly Come Dancing. Only five couples remain as the pro-celebrity dancing contest reaches the semi-finals, and with a shot at a place in the final on the line, the challenge is increased to match the stakes. This week, Craig Revel Horwood, Bruno Tonioli, Len Goodman and Darcey Bussell have challenged the contestants to master two routines, Latin and Ballroom, with the judges providing their verdict after each performance. Once the stars have had both their turns on the dance-floor, the lines will be opened for viewers to cast their votes. Tomorrow, the bottom two couples will be asked to take part in a nerve-racking dance-off, which will ultimately determine which of them will not be claiming a place in the grand final next weekend.

8.30 Casualty. Connie refuses to let her personal life interfere with her duties as clinical lead, but in doing so, she ends up dismissing Jacob's concerns about a very real problem.

9.20 The National Lottery Live. Ore Oduba presents as the all-important winning numbers are revealed.

9.30 Mrs Brown's Boys Christmas Special. Mrs Brown tries to work out what is inside a parcel addressed to Cathy and discovers Rory is planning to have plastic surgery. (R)

10.00 BBC News; Weather.

10.20 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents; National Lottery Update.

11.40 The Apprentice. (R)

12.40 Weather for the Week Ahead.

12.45 BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 Race to Super Bowl 50. (R) **6.55 Film:** Anything But Christmas. (2012) **8.25 Film:** Ray Harryhausen: Special Effects Titan. (2011) **10.00** Animal Park. (R) **10.30** Kangaroo Dundee. (R) **11.00** Ronnie's Animal Crackers. (R) **11.30** Ronnie's Animal Crackers. (R) **12.00** James Martin – Home Comforts at Christmas. (R) **12.45** James Martin – Home Comforts at Christmas. (R) **1.30** James Martin – Home Comforts at Christmas. (R) **2.15** Len and Ainsley's Big Food Adventure. (R) **3.00** Terry and Mason's Great Food Trip. (R) **3.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.15** Flog It! **5.15** Euro 2016 Draw. Live coverage from Paris.

6.30 The Great Pottery Throw Down. The four remaining potters compete in the final with Kate Malone and Keith Brymer Jones presenting them with their most technically demanding challenge in the Main Make when they have to make an original 12-piece tea set out of porcelain. For their Spot Test, they must cut intricate and decorative designs into leather hard porcelain using a technique known as "the devil's work", and for the Throw Down they have just 20 minutes to make three high-shouldered jugs – one of the hardest shapes to throw at the wheel. Last in the series. (R)

7.30 Japan: Earth's Enchanted Islands. Michelle Dockery narrates an exploration of the Ryukyu Islands in south-west Japan, revealing unexpected stories of isolation, unique wildlife and unsolved mysteries. (R)

8.30 Dad's Army. Mainwaring sets up an observation post in the local lighthouse and annoys the ARP wardens by flooding the whole town with light during an air raid. (R)

9.00 QI XL. Jimmy Carr, Aisling Bea and Danny Bhoy compete alongside resident panellist Alan Davies, as question master Stephen Fry muddles through the middle show of the middle series.

9.45 TOTP2: Christmas 2015. Christmas-themed hits from the archive, including songs by Tom Jones, Adele, Wizzard, Slade, Wham, Jona Lewie, the Pogues and Kirsty MacColl, Shakin' Stevens, Pulp and Cilla Black.

10.45 Film: The Prestige. (2006)

12.50 Film: The Winslow Boy. (1999)

2.30 This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.30** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.10** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Super 4. (R) **7.40** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.00** The Aquabats! Super Show! (R) **8.30** Thunderbirds Are Go. **9.00** Jessie. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.40** Judge Rinder. (R) **2.40 Film:** The Polar Express. (2004) **4.30** Doc Martin. (R) **5.35** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.45** Catchphrase Celebrity Special.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 The Chase: Celebrity Special. Jimi Mistry, Gemma Atkinson, Nadia Sawalha and James Cosmo answer general knowledge questions and work together to tackle quiz genius the Chaser and secure a cash prize for charity. Last in the series.

8.00 The X Factor. The three finalists assemble for the first of this weekend's live Grand Final shows. Weeks of lively auditions, gruelling boot camps and nerve-jangling live shows come to a head over the next two nights, but before the winner is named, the would-be pop-stars must first make it through two more showdowns, as judges Simon Cowell, Rita Ora, Cheryl Fernandez-Versini and Nick Grimshaw are once again called upon to deliver their verdict on each act's singing prowess. The act with the lowest public-vote figures will face an early exit from the contest this evening, bowing out in third place. Naturally, the stakes are the highest they've ever been for the hopeful pop icons, and as ever, presenter duo Olly Murs and Caroline Flack are on hand to provide some much-needed moral support on-stage. By the end of tomorrow evening, one of the two remaining acts will claim their place in the spotlight as this year's winner.

10.05 The Jonathan Ross Show.

11.10 ITV News; Weather.

11.30 Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Burt Reynolds. (R)

12.20 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** The King of Queens. (R) **7.30** Anglesey Sandman Triathlon. **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** The Morning Line. **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Cheltenham and Doncaster. **4.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.35** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.05 Come Dine with Me. Fun-loving salesman Charlie Spiteri hosts the final festive dinner party in south-east London, hoping to impress his guests with a three-bird roast and a snow machine. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 The World's Weirdest Weather. Weather conditions that cause fish to be washed ashore in India and draws sharks to the coast of Brisbane. Plus, an unusually heavy snowfall in Tucson, Arizona and strange circles in the Namibian desert, as well as footage of hailstorms, lightning and thunder storms.

8.00 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud follows software executive Andy and garden designer Nicki, who are planning to build a "floating" house on the Thames, which would be the first of its kind in the UK. (R)

9.00 Film: Red 2. (2013) Premiere. Former CIA agent Frank Moses reunites his squad of retired operatives for a vital mission. A devastatingly powerful new weapon has been stolen, and it falls to Frank's team to retrieve it – which means facing lethal assassins, terrorists and corrupt government officials out to steal the device. Action thriller sequel, starring Bruce Willis, Helen Mirren and John Malkovich.

11.15 TFI Friday. Martin Freeman, Idris Elba, Paul Heaton and Jacqui Abbott, James Bay, Rita Ora and Sigma join Chris Evans for the entertainment show mixing music and chat with stunts and skits. (R)

12.20 Adam Hills: Happyism Live. (R) **1.15** Alan Carr: Chatty Man. (R) **2.10** Fargo. (R) **3.20** Hollyoaks. (R) **5.30** River Cottage Bites. (R) **5.40** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **8.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **9.30** The Saturday Show. **11.30 Film:** Santa Who? (2000) **1.20 Film:** The Perfect Holiday. (2007) Premiere. Romantic comedy, starring Morris Chestnut and Gabrielle Union. **3.10 Film:** The Nine Lives of Christmas. (2014) Premiere. Romantic comedy, starring Brandon Routh and Kimberly Sustad. **4.55 Film:** Once Upon a Christmas. (2000) Premiere. Family drama, starring Kathy Ireland.

6.35 5 News Weekend.

6.40 Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops.

7.05 Police Interceptors. An officer tackles a drunken youth in a domestic dispute, a speeding motorist causes chaos after crashing into a gas main, and Doug gets to grips with a burglar. (R)

8.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. In the final episode of the series, Stewart and Ian head to Nottingham to recover a debt of nearly £3,000 in unpaid rent. In East London, Paul and Phil head to a flat expecting a routine eviction, but get more than they bargained for when they find dodgy wiring, illegal substances, and two men sleeping in squalid conditions. Meanwhile, Stewart and Victor hunt down one of their biggest debts of the year – £66,000 owed by a businessman. Finally, in West London, Steve and Ben try to evict a tenant who has broken the terms of her lease, but suspect a subletting scam when they find that the three-bedroom semi has been converted into tiny bedsits. Last in the series. (R)

9.00 Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's top matches, including Hull City v Bolton Wanderers at the KC Stadium and Middlesbrough v Birmingham City at the Riverside in the Championship. Plus, all the goals from League One and League Two, a round-up of the main talking points, and interviews with a selection of players and managers.

10.25 The Definitive History of Star Wars. (R)

11.25 How Star Wars Changed the World. (R)

12.25 The Gadget Show Christmas Special. (R) **1.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** Crackers About Christmas. (R) **4.00** Kids' Hospital at Christmas. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Don't Tell the Bride **8.00** Top Gear **9.00** Live at the Apollo **9.30 Film:** 8 Mile (2002) **11.15** Family Guy **1.50** Josh **2.20** Asian Provocateur **2.50** Great Movie Mistakes III: Not in 3D **3.00** Together **4.00** Close

BBC Four
7.00 Empire of the Seas: How the Navy Forged the Modern World **8.00** Britain's Outlaws: Highwaymen, Pirates and Rogues **9.00** The Bridge **11.00** Jeff Lynne's ELO in Concert **12.00** Mr Blue Sky: The Story of Jeff Lynne and ELO **1.00** Top of the Pops: 1980 **1.40** Rollermania: Britain's Biggest Boy Band **2.40** TOTP2: Boy Bands **3.35** Close

ITV2
11.35 The Xtra Factor **12.35** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! Coming Out **1.40** Elf: Buddy's Musical Christmas **2.40** Scorpion **3.35** You've Been Framed at Christmas! **4.35** Take Me Out Celebrity Christmas Special **5.45 Film:** Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium (2007) **7.40 Film:** Back to the Future Part III (1990) **10.05** The Xtra Factor **11.05** Celebrity Juice Christmas Special **12.05** Release The Hounds: Jingle Hell II **1.05** Viral Tap **1.40** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.30** Animal Practice **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
11.50 Rosemary & Thyme **12.50** Agatha Christie's Marple **2.55** A Touch of Frost **4.55 Film:** Columbo: Last Salute to the Commodore (1976) **7.00** Rosemary & Thyme **8.00** Midsomer Murders **10.00** Lewis **12.05** A Touch of Frost **2.10** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
2.35 Film: Blues Brothers 2000 (1998) **5.00** The Car Chasers **6.00** Fifth Gear **7.00** Storage Wars: New York **8.00** River Monsters **9.00 Film:** Hard to Kill (1990) **11.05 Film:** The Quest (1996) **1.00 Film:** The Sentinel (2006) **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
2.05 Melissa & Joey **3.00** The Goldbergs **4.00 Film:** City of Ember (2008) **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Paul (2011) **11.05** Gogglebox **1.15** The Inbetweeners **2.20** The IT Crowd **3.15** How I Met Your Mother **4.00** Revenge

Film4
1.00 The Dark Crystal (1982) **2.50** The Rugrats Movie (1999) **4.25** Earthquake (1974) **6.50** Field of Dreams (1989) **9.00** Insidious: Chapter 2 (2013) **11.10** Shutter Island (2010) **1.35** The Keep (1983) **3.35** Close

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The magic behind our...
Transformations

IT'S HARD to imagine that anyone would leave the sunny beaches of Spain or Portugal to find potential life-changing solutions at a dental practice in the Black Country heartland of Dudley.

But the town's Denture Clinic, considered by some as their final opportunity to find a resolve for long-term teeth problems, has seen patients do just that.

The clinic's prosthetics, prescribed and handcrafted on premises at this multi-disciplined dental practice in North Street, also has attracted people from Dorset, the Isle of Anglesey, the Isle of Skye and London.

Over the last decade, principal Steven Burchell DipCDT RCS(Eng) GDC 108353, has encountered some heart-rending accounts of how ill-fitting teeth have caused unnecessary suffering, eroded confidence, restricted social engagement and been responsible for shocking dietary regimes.

"Thankfully, we have never failed to deliver a successful clinical solution," he says.

"The power of viral marketing never ceases to amaze me as we have never promoted our work beyond the Midlands. But the remarkable reputation the team has built here has found an eager audience – the last challenging case coming from Llandudno," Steven adds.

Remarkable reputation

Quick to point out, the core philosophy of both his Denture Clinic and North Street Dental & Implant Clinic, Steven says: "We don't sell solutions, but provide honest, comprehensive, clinical appraisals that help patients make informed choices." There is no charge for an initial consultation and never pressure. "Sometimes I get patients back a couple of times before they commit. The information is free, as is the consultation.

"If something won't work, we'll tell them, but there's no reason for anyone to put up with uncomfortable and unsightly dentures." It wasn't that long ago that an amalgamation between glamour and dentures was unheard of, but these unlikely descriptive bedfellows are now increasingly being fused together at Steven's clinics in Dudley, Wolverhampton and Kidderminster.

Evangelical about what new-generation denture prescriptions can achieve, Steven adds: "Dentures have traditionally never been associated with cosmetic makeovers, but our high-quality prosthetics have quite literally taken years off some of our patients, reshaping smiles, sunken cheeks and pinched lips.

"Our teeth look real – the aesthetics and attention to detail for fit are astounding – and all prescriptions are functional too."

The current palette of solutions to deliver a more youthful, engaging smile has never been so great, with traditional prosthetics, implant-retained over-dentures and the most popular of inquiries – suction diaphragm dentures.

"Can dentures ever be glamorous?

Emphatically, yes," says Steven, who works hand-in-glove with practice implant surgeon, Dr Owain Rees BDS, DGDP (UK) DIP IMP DENT (UCL), and North Street's general dentist, Polly Mineva (GDC 188090), a Doctor of Dental Medicine.

Denture problem?
It's not a problem for us

• **Loose dentures** – A regular issue at the clinic often cause by bone erosion in the jaw. Possible solutions include high quality traditional dentures, suction valve dentures, or implant-retained overdentures.
With the Ultra Suction denture system a clever diaphragm principle, triggered by bite pressure on patients' gums, creates a 'sucking' vacuum between the soft-tissue mouth lining and the prosthetic.

• **Poor aesthetics** – The Denture Clinic is fastidious about the quality of its prosthetics and 'looking natural' has always been its hallmark.

• **Sore spots** – It's all about getting the fit perfect and with an on-site laboratory and cutting edge diagnostics, the clinic can ensure harmonious mating between gums and prescription.

• **Failing teeth** – Under one roof the surgical skill set covers nearly all eventualities, from simple fillings, endodontics (root fillings) to extractions and complex dental implant work.

• **Inability to eat properly** – Denture Clinic prescriptions are 'set' using a Biofunctional Prosthetics System (BPS) which helps with the accurate replication of natural teeth anatomy during the production process.

• **Aftercare** – Always high on the agenda. "We always give as much as the patients needs," says Steven.

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Denture Clinic

CHOICE

Tim Peake

Horizon: Tim Peake Special – How to Be an Astronaut (BBC2, 8pm)

Tim Peake is a European Space Agency astronaut who has been preparing for blast-off for two years. The former British Army Air Corps officer has spent that period being followed by a BBC camera crew who, if the resulting documentary is anything to go by, appear to have recorded his every moment. Peake also narrates the programme, offering enthralling insights into what it is to put your life on the line so you can journey into space. He also introduces us to his fellow mission crew members, Nasa's Tim Kopra and Roscosmos cosmonaut Yuri Malenchenko, who have both flown before and have experienced spacewalks while working on the construction of the Space Station.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.40** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Fern Britton Meets Lord Ashdown. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Saving the Forgotten Jews. **1.45** Lifeline. **1.55** Flog It! (R) **2.45 Film:** Toy Story 2. (1999) **4.15** Songs of Praise. **4.50** The Hunt. (R) **5.50** BBC News.

6.10 Regional Programme.

6.20 Countryfile. Ellie Harrison and Matt Baker explore the Dark Peak and the White Peak in Derbyshire, visiting the caverns made by the erosion from rainwater and going in search of England's only population of mountain hares. Sean Fletcher reports on the renovation of Haddon Hall, Adam Henson presents a look at the history of tractors, and Tom Heap discovers how wild boar have returned to the Forest of Dean. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

7.20 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. The five remaining couples gather for one last elimination show, as the least successful couples face a dance-off. Plus, Kylie Minogue performs with the professional dancers.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents the second of two episodes from Balmoral, where she takes a tour of the grounds in a 1953 land rover and watches archive footage of the royal family. Valuables brought in to be viewed include a collection of medals from both World Wars presented to a man who also rescued survivors from the Titanic, an art nouveau mirror and a 16th-century bottle that survived being unearthed by a digger.

9.00 The Hunt. Efforts to protect endangered predators, looking at the precarious future for species on five continents, including lions, tigers, polar bears and blue whales. Last in the series.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman presents action from today's Premier League matches.

11.40 Citizen Khan. As Mr Khan enters the Great Sparkhill Bake Off, Mrs Khan worries that Alia's new boyfriend sounds too rough. (R)

12.10 Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.15 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **6.45** Big Dreams Small Spaces. (R) **7.45** Countryfile. (R) **8.45** An Island Parish: Falklands. (R) **9.15** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **10.45** James Martin – Home Comforts at Christmas. (R) **11.30** James Martin – Home Comforts at Christmas. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00 Film:** Jason and the Argonauts. (1963) Fantasy adventure, starring Todd Armstrong. **2.45** Family Finders. (R) **3.15** Escape to the Continent. (R) **4.15** Athletics: European Cross Country Highlights. **5.20 Film:** Nativity! (2009) Comedy, starring Martin Freeman.

7.00 Celebrity Antiques Road Trip. TV chef Ainsley Harriott and presenter Anne Diamond take on the antiques-hunting challenge. Travelling in and around London on their search for auction-worthy items, Anne finds out why Britain became a nation of tea-lovers and Ainsley learns about the world's first celebrity chef. (R)

8.00 Horizon: Tim Peake Special – How to Be an Astronaut. A video diary filmed over two years by Tim Peake, who will become the first British astronaut to board the International Space Station on 15 December. His personal footage details some of the risks and pressures he faces, as well as the rigorous training required to go into space, including replicating spacewalks and training to deal with the physical dangers of weightlessness, undergoing exercises in the Soyuz capsule and space station mockups, and preparing to spend time away from his wife and two sons.

9.00 The Secret History of the British Garden. Monty Don concludes the series by exploring how gardening has developed over the past 100 years, and how horticulture has become a key part of Britain's economy. Last in the series.

10.00 Professor Green: Suicide and Me. The rapper explores the circumstances surrounding his father's suicide and investigates why suicide is the biggest killer of males under the age of 45 in Britain. Previously shown on BBC3.

11.00 Film: Seven Years in Tibet. (1997) Fact-based drama, starring Brad Pitt and David Thewlis.

1.10 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.05** Holby City. (R) **3.05** James Martin – Home Comforts at Christmas. (R) **3.50** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.30** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.10** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Super 4. (R) **7.40** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. **8.00** The Aquabats! Super Show! (R) **8.30** Marvel Super Heroes: Maximum Overload. (R) **9.00** Jessie. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.40 Film:** Evil Under the Sun. (1982) Mystery, starring Peter Ustinov. **3.00** The X Factor. (R) **5.00 Film:** The Scorpion King. (2002) Fantasy action adventure, starring Dwayne Johnson.

6.35 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 Jekyll and Hyde. Part two of two. Robert goes in search of his former ally, the vigilante Spring Heeled Jack, and the mysterious parasite that has taken control of him. However, the creature abandons its host and take over Ravi, who now faces either a painful death when it is finished with him or being killed by MIO agents in an attempt to destroy the infection. Robert tries to find a way to save his brother, while also using the parasite as bait to lure Bulstrode into a trap and rid himself of MIO once and for all.

8.00 The X Factor. Caroline Flack and Olly Murs host the climax of the singing contest from the SSE Arena, Wembley. A host of special guests will be appearing on stage before the results of the viewers' votes are tallied up and this year's winner is announced. The performer in question will get to record this year's X Factor single – a cover version of Bob Dylan's classic song Forever Young. Last in the series.

10.00 The World According to Kenny Everett. Profile of the comedian and DJ, featuring classic clips from his TV shows, never-before-seen archive footage, and and contributions from family, friends and colleagues.

11.00 ITV News; Weather.

11.15 The Chase. Bradley Walsh presents. (R)

12.15 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) **6.40** Beat the Sun 2015. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Simpsons. (R) **2.30** The Simpsons. (R) **3.00 Film:** Marley and Me. (2008) Comedy drama based on journalist John Grogan's account of life with a mischievous golden Labrador he bought for his wife. Starring Owen Wilson, Jennifer Aniston and Kathleen Turner. **5.20 Film:** Aladdin. (1992) A street urchin happens across a magical lamp, home to a genie with the ability to grant wishes. Disney animated adventure, with the voices of Robin Williams and Scott Weinger.

7.00 Channel 4 News.

7.30 Britain's Wildest Weather 2015. Documentary featuring footage of unusual weather conditions in the past year shot by members of the public, including freak hailstorms, 113mph winds, deadly lightning strikes and even a tornado. The programme includes interviews with those involved, including tanker pilots, mountain rescue teams, weather watchers and hikers.

9.00 Homeland. Allison is placed under interrogation, and Carrie and Astrid decide to search for Quinn. Thriller following a team of CIA agents, starring Claire Danes and Miranda Otto.

10.00 Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R)

11.05 Film: Mama. (2013) A couple take in two orphans left alone in the woods, unaware a supernatural force is watching over the children. Horror, starring Jessica Chastain and Nikolaj Coster-Waldau.

12.55 Grand Designs Australia. Peter Maddison meets couple Jason Bretell and Jennifer Pancari, as they set about restoring a 150-year-old cottage in the Melbourne suburb of Williamstown. (R) **1.45** Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners. Featuring a vintage-stall owner who has filled sheds, a gazebo and much of her house with her hoard, and a woman whose home has not had a deep clean in 12 years. (R) **2.40** Four in a Bed. (R) **5.05** Location, Location, Location. Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer revisit Matt Rushworth, who wanted to settle down in Windsor. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.45** Tickety Toc. (R) **6.55** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.15** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.25** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.40** Little Princess. (R) **8.00** Pip Ahoy! (R) **8.10** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.35** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.50** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **9.05** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.20** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.40** LazyTown. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Football League Tonight. (R) **12.00** Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops. (R) **12.35 Film:** The Christmas Shepherd. (2014) Drama, starring Teri Polo. **2.20 Film:** Meet the Santas. (2005) Fantasy comedy sequel, with Steve Guttenberg. **4.05 Film:** Mrs Miracle 2: Miracle in Manhattan. (2010) Family drama sequel, starring Doris Roberts.

6.00 Film: A Country Christmas Story. (2013) Premiere. A teenager from the Appalachian mountains dreams of being a country singer, but her mother does not approve of her ambitions. She defies her family to take part in a concert organised by Dolly Parton at her theme park, and the journey opens her eyes to the history of country music. Musical, starring Desiree Ross and Megyn Price, with Parton as herself.

7.35 Film: Scrooge. (1970) Hard-hearted Victorian miser Ebenezer Scrooge refuses to join in with the spirit of the festive season – until a succession of spectral visitors turn up to teach him the error of his ways. Musical adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic A Christmas Carol, starring Albert Finney, Alec Guinness, Kenneth More, Edith Evans and Paddy Stone.

9.55 5 News Weekend.

10.00 Film: The Blind Side. (2009) Premiere. A couple take in a homeless teenager and help him fund his education and train to be an American football player. Fact-based drama, with Sandra Bullock and Quinton Aaron.

12.30 Who Killed Santa: True Crimes. A homeless man is murdered. (R) **1.05** SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10** Danger: Teen Bingers. Young people who are obese. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. A flat in Kensal Green, west London. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Don't Tell the Bride **8.00** Top Gear **9.00 Film:** Enemy of the State (1998) **11.05** Family Guy **11.50** American Dad! **12.10** Family Guy **12.30** Josh **1.00** Rent a Cop **1.30** Siblings **3.00** Together **4.00** Close

BBC Four

7.00 Blood and Gold: The Making of Spain with Simon Sebag Montefiore **8.00** Ballrooms and Ballerinas: Dance at the BBC **9.00** Dance Rebels: A Story of Modern Dance **10.30 Film:** Easy Money II (2012) **12.05** Storyville: Russia's Toughest Prison – The Condemned **1.25** Treasures of the Anglo-Saxons **2.25** The Mary Rose: A Timewatch Guide **3.25** Close

ITV2

11.15 The X Factor **1.20** The Xtra Factor **2.20** Merry Christmas Mr Bean **2.55 Film:** Ella Enchanted (2004) **4.50** Catchphrase Christmas Special **5.50 Film:** Peter Pan (2003) **8.00 Film:** The Nutty Professor (1996) **10.00** The Xtra Factor **11.00 Film:** Keith Lemon: The Film (2012) **12.50** Viral Tap **1.30** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **1.55** Animal Practice **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

12.55 Film: Columbo: Last Salute to the Commodore (1976) **2.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **4.55** Midsomer Murders: Ghosts of Christmas Past **7.00** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs **8.00** Lewis **10.00** Midsomer Murders **12.05 Film:** Murder on the Orient Express (1974) **2.25** Wycliffe **3.20** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale

ITV4

3.05 Film: No Name on the Bullet (1959) **4.45 Film:** Jeremiah Johnson (1972) **7.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special **8.00** Football Dream Debuts **9.00 Film:** The Day of the Jackal (1973) **11.55 Film:** Quadrophenia (1979) **2.20** Pawn Stars **2.40** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

12.30 Film: Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events (2004) **2.35** Rude(ish) Tube **3.00** Couples Come Dine with Me **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **6.30 Film:** Twilight (2008) **9.00** The Big Bang Theory **10.30** The Inbetweeners **11.35** The IT Crowd **12.40** First Dates **1.40** Gogglebox **2.40** Rules of Engagement

Film4

11.00 Love Story (1970) **1.00** Pom Poko (1994) **3.35** King Kong (1976) **6.25** A Knight's Tale (2001) **9.00** Taken 2 (2012) **10.50** Repo Men (2010) **1.00** Copycat (1995) **3.30** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
The Christmas Switch, Channel 5, 3.45pm
Premiere. A hustler begins to rethink his outlook on life when he agrees to magically swap bodies with a dying man at Christmas. Fantasy, starring Brian Krause and Cedric Smith. (2014)

TUESDAY
Mr Miracle, Channel 5, 2.05pm
A trainee guardian angel is sent to Earth to help people, but quickly finds he has a lot to learn about human behaviour. Undaunted, he chooses as his first assignment a woman whose father has recently died, making a bumbling attempt to boost her confidence so she can make a fresh start. Fantasy comedy, starring Rob Morrow and Britt Irvin. (2014)

WEDNESDAY
A Star for Christmas, Channel 5, 3.45pm
A baker's life is thrown into chaos by a recent break-up and her co-worker leaving her to cope alone during a busy period. Things look up when she falls in love with a handsome customer, but does not realise he is a movie star in town to shoot a film. Meanwhile, her ex-boyfriend is less than happy about her new romance. Drama, starring Briana Evigan. (2012)

AI: Artificial Intelligence, Friday, BBC2, 11.05pm

THURSDAY
Christmas Wishes, Channel 5, 2.05pm
A teacher at a boarding school agrees to look after troubled students who are unable to go home for the Christmas holidays. His career is threatened when a pupil vandalises a beloved local tree where people can leave their handwritten wishes, but he rallies the townsfolk to repair the damage. Family drama, starring Jason Gedrick and Richard Harmon. (2012)

FRIDAY
AI: Artificial Intelligence, BBC2, 11.05pm
A highly advanced robotic boy is created with one purpose – to love his owner as a parent. When he is rejected by his "mother', he is left to roam the bleak landscapes of a futuristic America with a fellow android, searching for a means of becoming a real boy in the hope of regaining her love. Steven Spielberg's sci-fi drama, starring Haley Joel Osment, Jude Law, William Hurt and Frances O'Connor. (2001)

Luther is looking to find the missing link

It's the summer of 2013 and millions of viewers have tried to catch their breath after one of the scariest scenes in TV history.

An episode of Luther boasted a tension-filled set up, and as a killer emerged from under a victim's bed, singletons across the land were suddenly wary about their checking under the mattress.

But there was a light at the end of the TV tunnel.

Case solved, the eponymous sleuth's trademark shabby coat was hurled off a London bridge and arch enemy/stalker Alice asked him that loaded question: "So, now what?"

So ended Neil Cross's hugely successful series, and fans were also left wondering what the future held for one of Blighty's best loved detectives and his unhinged ally.

Of course, the problem with making a crime drama as good as Luther is the fact that the cast and crew are in such high demand it's tricky getting them in the same place at the same time.

With Idris Elba hard at work on Star Trek Beyond, and assorted other projects, there's little wonder fans had to wait for a couple of years for this latest offering.

All good things come to those who wait, and Idris has found enough time in his busy schedule to make this two-parter.

We catch up with the eponymous protagonist stood on the edge of a London building, and like much missed fellow BBC 'tec River, he is also haunted by a ghost from his past.

Or is he actually on the edge of a Dover cliff, dreaming of what could have been?

Well we can tell you he's on a leave of absence from the police force. Laying low in a decrepit cottage, he is soon dragged back to London by an alarming piece of news.

With a serial killer at large in the city, Schenk and his squad must find a link that connects each victim. The authorities might be baffled, but Luther is no stranger to psychopaths, and before long he's back in action. But has he finally met his match?

Very possibly.

With a solid supporting cast including Patrick Malahide, Darren Boyd, Game of Thrones' Rose Leslie, and series regulars Michael Smiley and Dermot Crowley, safe to say that we're in safe hands as Neil Cross unveils his latest twisted masterpiece.

And yes, that is Warren Brown returning as DS Justin Ripley, who met a violent end during the last series.

But what of Luther's flame-haired associate Alice? Is she alive or dead, and will she be returning?

Well that's just one of the assorted storylines that should keep you guessing as the mini series plays out.

Cross has suggested an Alice spin-off project, which is not a bad idea.

Ruth Wilson has won much acclaim for the role, so who wouldn't want to see Idris guest star in that for a short spell instead of carrying a series on his formidable shoulders?

For now, hold onto something comforting and prepare to be gripped once more.

Idris Elba stars in Luther, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

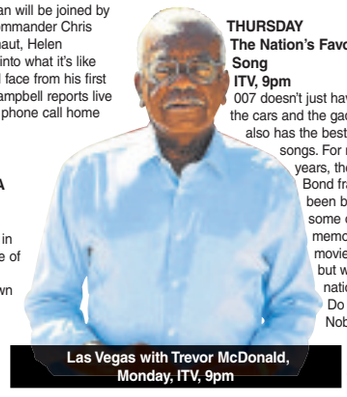
BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Las Vegas with Trevor McDonald
ITV, 9pm
The broadcaster continues his exploration of the American city by tracking down Andrew Didonato, a former New York mobster hiding out in Vegas, but who is about to quit town for a new life. Over on the Strip, Trevor meets former showgirl Lisa Medford at the Riviera, a casino and hotel that once played host to Elvis and the Rat Pack but is now shutting its doors for the final time, before sitting in on a poker game with Antonio Esfandiari, one of the world's most successful professional players.

The Best of Bad TV: The 70s
Channel 5, 10pm
A trawl through the decade's programmes, featuring clips of car-crash interviews, terrifying children's dramas, hoaxes and baffling game shows. Limited technology and low budgets led to memorably poor special effects in sci-fi shows, while soaps tried to escape the grim realities of strikes, unease and civil unrest. There were also memorable clashes between music stars and TV presenters, from David Bowie to the Sex Pistols. Contributors include Gareth Thomas, Paul Darrow, Jane Rossington, Tony Adams, Paul Henry, Peter Purves and Valerie Singleton.

TUESDAY
Stargazing Live: Brit in Space
BBC2, 7pm
Dara O Briain and Professor Brian Cox present coverage of British astronaut Tim Peake's arrival at the International Space Station. At London's Science Museum, Dara and Brian will be joined by experts, including former ISS commander Chris Hadfield and Britain's first astronaut, Helen Sharman. They'll share insights into what it's like living in space and what Tim will face from his first night on the ISS. Plus, Dallas Campbell reports live from Kazakhstan with Tim's first phone call home from space.

WEDNESDAY
Journey Down the Yukon – A Soldier's Challenge
BBC2, 7pm
Nine years after being blown up in Afghanistan, Ben Parkinson, one of Britain's most wounded soldiers, takes on a mission to canoe down one of the world's most remote river systems, Canada's Yukon River. The soldier had both legs amputated and was left with a severe brain injury after the explosion in 2006, with medical staff warning him that he may never walk or talk again. However, he is defying the odds by taking on the expedition, where all that stands in his way are bears, wolves and rapids – and the battle with his own damaged and broken body.



Las Vegas with Trevor McDonald, Monday, ITV, 9pm

THURSDAY
The Nation's Favourite Bond Song
ITV, 9pm
007 doesn't just have the girls, the cars and the gadgets – he also has the best theme songs. For more than 50 years, the James Bond franchise has been bringing us some of the most memorable hits in movie history, but which is the nation's favourite? Do we think Nobody Does It Better than Carly Simon, or did the series reach an All Time High with Rita Coolidge? Well, now we can find out as ITV brings counts down the nation's 20 favourite Bond themes, while also hearing some of the stories behind the songs from contributors including Paul McCartney, Duran Duran, A-ha and lyricists Leslie Bricusse and Don Black. A host of celebrities will be revealing their personal favourites, and we get to hear how Sam Smith recently gave the series its first ever UK number one with Writing's On the Wall.

FRIDAY
Text Santa Christmas Jumper Day
ITV, 8pm
Phillip Schofield, Holly Willoughby and Amanda Holden lead a host of stars rallying support for this year's charities – Macmillan Cancer Support, Make-A-Wish UK and Save the Children. Highlights include a visit to Coronation Street with a Text Santa twist, Ninja Warrior receiving the star treatment when a line-up of celebrities take on The Wall, plus Lord Grantham having a tough decision to make in a Downton Abbey special. Alesha Dixon, Caroline Flack, Christine Bleakley, Olly Murs, Paddy McGuinness and Stephen Mulhern also feature amid the music, surprises and special guests.

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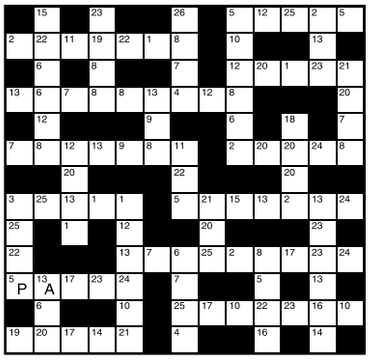
Wolverhampton Chronicle Thursday, December 10, 2015

BRAIN GYM No.355

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



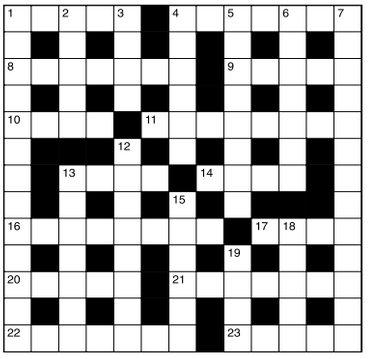
1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5 P	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13 A	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
F	G	C	H	N	W	M	Z	V	U	K	Q	O
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
L	E	A	Y	B	P	S	X	T	R	D	I	J

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Supports the defenders on the field (5)
4. Operates the hoisting device and stops (5,2)
8 & 9Ac. Express opinions on the radio? (3,4,5)
9. See 8 Across
10. The infant has nothing to use as a trumpet (4)
11. Select fish for preserving (8)
13. Strike a kind of link (4)
14. Kitty indicates the lido (4)
16 & 21Ac. How the dutiful minister signs himself (8,7)
17. In the Bible Saul conceals one of the patriarchs (4)
20. The return of the Hebrew maiden will make one complain (5)
21. See 16 Across
22. Took up permanent residence and paid (7)
23. Goes to war for financial rewards (5)

Down

1. What record-breaking jumpers do at Rogationtide (4,3,6)
2. Leave the vehicle first - it's put in the hold (5)
3. Decline a piece of kitchen equipment (4)
4. Part of the flower I split badly (6)
5. Romantic entanglement? (4-4)
6. Particular place is rearranged (7)
7. They've already had some degree of success (4-9)
12. One in authority - and that's not just hearsay (8)
13. Is it smoked by the great man in bed? (7)
15. Not accustomed to mint (6)
18. A bit of unceremonious language (5)
19. One bird or a hundred on the line (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Sea (5)
4. Go down (7)
8. Envious (7)
9. Wrong (5)
10. Cook (4)
11. Act imperiously (8)
13. Cupid (4)
14. Fair (4)
16. Repulsive (8)
17. Chief (4)
20. Well done! (5)
21. Incorrect (7)
22. Ingredient (7)
23. Terror (5)

Down

1. Unpleasant (13)
2. Elude (5)
3. Midday (4)
4. Dictator (6)
5. Roomy (8)
6. Obvious (7)
7. Noted differences (13)
12. Despair (4,4)
13. Rival (7)
15. Whimsical (6)
18. Conscious (5)
19. Group of animals (4)

Sudoku

		3				9		
	9		4	3	8		5	1
1				2			4	7
		2			5			4
	8	5	3		4		6	
			7			8		
6	2			7				3
3	5		9		6		2	
		9						

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

4	2	7	1	5	3	8	9	6
9	6	8	7	2	4	5	1	3
3	1	5	6	8	9	2	4	7
2	3	4	9	7	6	1	8	5
8	5	1	3	4	2	6	7	9
7	9	6	8	1	5	4	3	2
6	7	2	4	9	1	3	5	8
5	4	9	2	3	8	7	6	1
1	8	3	5	6	7	9	2	4

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 3 Direction; 8 Rear; 9 Mini-skirt; 10 Pathos; 11 Aegis; 14 Links; 15 Nude; 16 Easel; 18 Eats; 20 Infer; 21 Scale; 24 Parish; 25 Schematic; 26 Dean; 27 Orangeade. Down: 1 Propeller; 2 Castanets; 4 Isis; 5 Elite; 6 Take in; 7 Oars; 9 Mouse; 11 Aisle; 12 Surf-rider; 13 Near thing; 17 Lilac; 19 Screen; 22 Leave; 23 Scar; 24 Pied. QUICK - Across: 3 Speculate; 8 Omit; 9 Interment; 10 Treads; 11 Trend; 14 Spoil; 15 Time; 16 Lapse; 18 Mend; 20 Rogue; 21 Defer; 24 Moving; 25 Excavator; 26 Lean; 27 Certitude. Down: 1 Loathsome; 2 Hidebound; 4 Pens; 5 Clear; 6 Lament; 7 Tune; 9 Idyll; 11 Taper; 12 Disguised; 13 Detergent; 17 Error; 19 Depart; 22 Enact; 23 Axle; 24 Mood.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. Which ceremony takes place during the 3rd week of July on the Thames?
2. In which Dickens novel does the quotation 'Barkis is willin" appear?
3. In which country was the Rosetta stone found?
4. In what sort of building would you find a rood screen?
5. In which London park is Rotten Row?
6. What sort of animal is a drongo?
7. What is the former residence of the Moorish kings at Seville called?
8. What is the Italian name of the city of Turin?
9. Who was the youngest of the four Beatles?
10. In which country was Israeli politician Menachem Begin born?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Delaware; 2 1962; 3 Alva;

4 Out of condition to fight; 5 Scotland;

6 Andrew Jackson; 7 Jezebel; 8 Kenyan;

9 House sparrow; 10 1975.

Niner: RESULTING

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

9717 gives a game,
528869 gives a sport,
9461683 gives another sport.

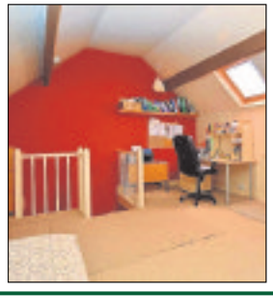
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Charming four-bed semi is ideal for family living

A CHARMING four-bed traditional-style semi in Clark Road, Compton, has generous accommodation, ideal for family living.

With gas central heating and part double glazing, it is for sale through DB Roberts & Partners at £233,950 with no chain.

It has a hallway, two reception rooms, a fitted breakfast kitchen, a utility, a downstairs bathroom, three bedrooms (master with en suite shower room) and a family bathroom on the first floor, with bedroom four on the second floor. Call 01902 427257 or visit www.dbroberts.co.uk



Ro Estates

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Castlecroft Avenue, Wolverhampton
- Four Bedroom Detached Property
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Fitten Kitchen
- Family Bathroom And W/C
- Garage
- Large Garden

Green Lane, Wolverhampton
- Semi Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Spacious Lounge ● Diner
- Family Bathroom
- Garage and Off Road Parking

Northfield Road, Birmingham
- Town House
- Three Bedrooms
- Master With En-Suite
- Large Living Room
- Dining Room

Carless Green, Stourbridge
- Semi Detached
- Three Bedroom
- Spacious Lounge
- Conservatory
- Bathroom With Shower

Trysull Road, Wolverhampton
- Semi Detached
- Off Road Parking
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Three Large Bedrooms

Bloomfield Terrace, Tipton
- Mid Terrace House
- Kitcehn With Some Appliances
- Three Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Conservatory

Middle Meadow, Tipton
- One Bedroom
- Allocated Parking
- Lounge
- Bathroom with shower
- Fitted Kitchen

Moat Green Avenue, Wolverhampton
- One Bedroom
- Spacious Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Large Double Bedroom
- Enclosed Rear Garden

Belmont Road, Penn
- Ground Floor FLat
- Good Size Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom With Shower
- Garden At Rear

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LOT 1

30 ROWLEY CLOSE, HEDNESFORD, WS12 4ES

FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- Semi detached house
- Requiring refurbishment
- Predominantly double glazed
- Garage
- Gas fired central heating (Not Tested)
- EPC rating D (61)

GUIDE PRICE £30,000+

LOT 2

11 HEDNESFORD ROAD, BROWNHILLS, WS8 7LS

FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- Semi detached house
- Built C.1901 of brick and tile construction
- Requiring extensive modernisation and refurbishment
- Predominantly double glazed
- Gas fired central heating
- EPC rating F (33)

GUIDE PRICE £70,000

LOT 3

26A NEW ROAD, ARMITAGE, RUGELEY, WS15 4BN

LEASEHOLD INVESTMENT

- First floor flat
- In popular residential area
- Currently let on an assured shorthold tenancy (Holding over)
- Currently producing £4,420 P.A
- EPC rating G (4)

GUIDE PRICE £35,000+

LOT 4

56 HEATH GAP ROAD, BLACKFORDS, CANNOCK, WS11 6DS

FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- Semi detached house
- Requiring refurbishment
- Predominantly double glazed
- Gas fired central heating (Not Tested)
- EPC rating E (47)

GUIDE PRICE £48,000+

LOT 5

44 CANNOCK ROAD, CANNOCK, WS11 5BX

FREEHOLD SUBJECT TO REGULATED WEEKLY TENANCY

- Currently producing £3,588 P.A.
- Traditional semi detached house
- Brick and tile construction
- Three bedrooms
- EPC rating G (1)

GUIDE PRICE £30,000+

LOT 6

308 HEDNESFORD ROAD, HEATH HAYES, WS12 3DS

FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- Mid terraced house
- Two bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Part double glazed
- In need of repair/improvement
- EPC rating E (54)

GUIDE PRICE £50,000 - £60,000

LOT 7

72 PRINCESS STREET, BURNTWOOD, WS7 1JN

FREEHOLD SUBJECT TO REGULATED TENANCY

- Semi detached house ◆ Brick and tile construction
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Rear gardens with garage
- Currently producing £2,600 P.A (inclusive of water rates)
- EPC rating E (46)

GUIDE PRICE £50,000+

LOT 8

3 MYRTLE GROVE, BREWOOD, ST19 9HN

FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- Semi detached bungalow
- In need of comprehensive renovation
- Two bedrooms
- Gas fired central heating
- Fully double glazed
- EPC rating D (55)

Guide Price £140,000 - £160,000

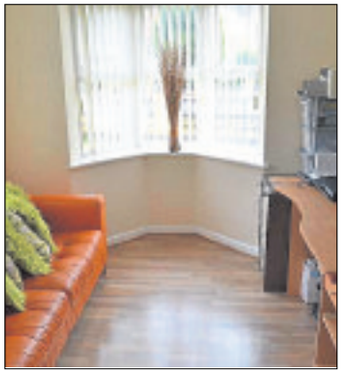
Modern detached with great commuting links

IN a convenient location with great commuting links, this modern detached family home in Constantine Way, Bilston has superb accommodation.

It is for sale through home point at £224,995.

Its good ground floor accommodation includes an excellent kitchen/diner with granite work surfaces, an oven and five ring wok hob with hood over, integrated dishwasher and washing machine, an entrance hall, a lounge, a family room/study, a dining area and guest W/C. To the first floor there is a galleried landing, are four bedrooms with an en-suite to the master and a further family bathroom.

The property is also located on a pleasant corner plot. For further information call 01902 766388 or visit www.homepoint.org.uk



Family home has a lovely rear garden

A GREAT sized three-bedroomed family home in St Ambrose Place, Kidderminster comes with a great kitchen/diner and a lovely rear garden.

It is for sale through Phipps & Pritchard with McCartneys at £164,950.

With double glazing and gas central heating and private parking it has an entrance hall, WC, living room with a flame-effect gas fire and storage, a through dining room and kitchen with an oven with four-ring gas hob, extractor hood over and an integrated fridge.

There are also three bedrooms (two with wardrobes) and a bathroom.

For further information contact Phipps & Pritchard with McCartneys on 01562 822244 or visit www.phippsandpritchard.co.uk

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COMPTON

● Surprisingly spacious Detached residence offering excellent family accommodation in exceptionally popular locality with good range of amenities conveniently accessible ● Impressively proportioned layout of versatile design and very well appointed specification ● Fitted Cloakroom off Hall ● Large Lounge with marble fireplace ● Separate Dining Room ● Additional 27ft Living/Garden Room ● Study/Bedroom four ● 17ft. Breakfast Kitchen with fine range of fittings, granite surfaces and integrated appliances ● Three first floor Bedrooms (two with ranges of wardrobes) ● Fully tiled Bathroom ● Gas-fired central heating ● Double glazed windows ● Garage plus driveway parking facilities ● Attractively landscaped mature garden extending 80ft. to rear ● (EPC: E)

OFFERS AROUND £375,000

CLAVERLEY

THE PADDOCK ● Exceedingly spacious 4 Bed Barn Conversion in prominent corner position off High Street within this idyllic Shropshire village situated between Wolverhampton and Bridgnorth ● Rustic elevations of mellowed brickwork conceal a roomy layout ● Oil fired CH ● Reception Hall and Fitted Guest's Cloaks ● Impressive 20ft through Lounge ● Dining Room ● Fitted Breakfast Kitchen with appliances ● Galleried Landing ● 19ft Master Bedroom with fitted furniture and En-Suite ● 3 further generous sized Bedrooms ● House Bathroom with free standing bath and separate shower ● Double-width Garage and driveway parking ● Enclosed, partly walled rear garden plus additional established gardens to front and side (EPC: D)

OFFERS AROUND £359,950

SEISDON

FOX ROAD WV5 7HD
OPEN VIEWING THIS SATURDAY 12th DEC - 11am to 1pm

● Brand new development of three, 3 Bed detached properties set within sought after South Staffs village convenient for nearby Wombourne which offers a comprehensive selection of facilities and amenities ● Elegantly designed and with 10 year NHBC Guarantee ● Hall ● Living Room with double doors to garden ● Inner Hall with Fitted Guest's Cloaks ● Luxuriously equipped Dining Kitchen with stylish units, granite work surfaces and integrated appliances ● Utility ● Master Bedroom with superbly fitted En-Suite Shower Room ● 2 further Bedrooms ● Luxury House Bathroom with shower ● Generous sized Garage and block-paved parking area ● Gas fired underfloor heating and uPVC double glazing ● Lawned and fenced gardens (EPC: tbc)

PRICES FROM £279,950

WOMBOURNE

FOLEY GROVE ● Superbly presented and stylishly upgraded modern style 2 Bed Detached Bungalow with Conservatory in pleasant cul-de-sac on fringe of Poolhouse Farm development, convenient for supermarket shopping and other village facilities ● Well-proportioned interior with gas CH and uPVC double glazing ● Reception Hall ● 'L' shaped Lounge/Dining Area ● Kitchen with integrated double oven, gas hob, cooker hood, Belfast sink and granite tiled work surfaces ● uPVC double glazed Conservatory ● 2 Bedrooms, both with wardrobes ● Luxuriously re-fitted Shower Room ● Detached Garage & Carport ● Pretty 'cottage' style gardens (EPC: D) ● ●NO UPWARD CHAIN - VIEWING RECOMMENDED● ●

OFFERS AROUND £220,000

HIMLEY

CHURNS HILL LANE ● Luxuriously appointed & delightfully positioned 2 Bedroom ground floor Apartment, part of the popular Limes development for the over 55's ● Lovely village setting just off the A449 with facilities available at nearby Wombourne village ● Flat 31 is particularly 'light and airy' set in separate block of 4 provided with its own front door ● Entrance Hall ● Pleasant Living Room ● Well-fitted Kitchen with a range of integrated appliances and adjoining Dining/Sitting Area ● Bedroom 1 with fitted wardrobes and En-Suite Shower Room ● Bedroom 2 with wardrobes ● Bathroom with stylish suite ● Gas CH and uPVC double glazing ● Leasehold and Service Charge payable (full details from agents) ● ●NO UPWARD CHAIN ● ● (EPC: C)

OFFERS AROUND £199,950

WOMBOURNE

BRATCH PARK ● Delightfully positioned 2 Bed Semi-Detached Bungalow set in prominent corner position within established development of popularity on village fringes, handy for facilities and amenities ● Near to the picturesque Bratch canal locks ● Entrance Hall ● Living Room with attractive marble fireplace ● Kitchen with modern style fittings including built-in oven, hob and cooker hood ● 2 good sized Bedrooms, one with wardrobes ● Bathroom with modern style suite and shower ● Gas CH from combination boiler and uPVC double glazing ● Very pretty lawned gardens to front, side and rear ● Garage and driveway at rear ● ●NO UPWARD CHAIN ● ● (EPC: D)

OFFERS AROUND £199,950

WOMBOURNE

BRAMBER DRIVE ● Usefully enlarged and conveniently positioned 2 Bedroom Semi-Detached Bungalow situated just off Planks Lane, handy for local shopping and public transport and within walking distance of the picturesque village centre ● Deceptively spacious layout ● Entrance Hall ● Interlinked Lounge and Dining Area ● Neatly fitted modern style Kitchen ● Inner Hall ● Two Bedrooms ● Stylishly fitted Shower Room ● Gas CH and uPVC double glazing ● Generous sized Garage (16'5" × 11'8") and driveway parking ● Gardens to front and rear (EPC: D) ● ●NO UPWARD CHAIN● ●

OFFERS AROUND £174,950

GOLDTHORN PARK

● Extended traditional-style semi of imposing appearance, pleasantly positioned in highly popular residential neighbourhood ● Spacious accommodation with much improved specification and scope for further upgrading to exploit full potential ● Porch and Hall ● Bay-fronted Dining Room ● 19ft Lounge ● Large Breakfast Kitchen with good range of fittings ● Ground floor Cloaks/Shower Room ● Three Bedrooms ● Fully tiled Bathroom ● Gas-fired central heating ● Double glazed windows ● Walled forecourt providing parking for several cars and access to Garage ● Landscaped garden to rear ● (EPC: D)

OFFERS AROUND £174,950

PENN

● Very attractive traditional-style semi in consistently popular residential backwater on the south-western outskirts of the city ● Typically well proportioned accommodation in tidily presented order whilst offering scope for some updating and upgrading to exploit full potential ● Porch and Hall ● Bay-fronted Lounge ● Separate Dining Room ● Basic Kitchen ● 17ft Verandah/Utility incorporating fitted Cloakroom ● Three Bedrooms (two with wardrobes) ● Dated Bathroom ● Majority gas-fired central heating ● Virtually full double glazing ● Driveway parking facilities ● 85ft rear garden ● (EPC: E)

OFFERS AROUND £169,950

A full selection of our properties can be viewed at: www.bartlams.co.uk

Finchfield
15 Finchfield Road West, Finchfield WV3 8AY
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Tettenhall
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Wombourne
House-On-The-Green High Street Wombourne WV5 9DN
Tel: (01902) 894141

Codsall
4 Station Road, Codsall WV8 1BX
Tel: (01902) 845215

K.Stuart Swash

AUCTION TUESDAY 15th DECEMBER 2015

WOLVERHAMPTON, 140 MERRIDALE ROAD

Imposing Detached Residence
"In & out" entrance drive, Porch, fine Reception Hall
large through Lounge, Study / Sun Lounge, 21ft Dining Kitchen, Utility, fitted Cloakroom, Four Bedrooms, one en-suite, magnificent house Bathroom, 33ft Garage, Rear Garden with gazebo. EPC: E.46

Guide: £270,000 / £290,000

VIEWING

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 11th & 12th DECEMBER @ 10.00 a.m.

130 THE LINDENS, NEWBRIDGE

Easy access to City Centre
Second Floor purpose built Flat
Spacious accommodation with Double Glazing
Private Hall, 14ft Lounge, Dining Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom
Garage. EPC: F.31

Guide: £48,000/£53,000

VIEWING
FRIDAY & SATURDAY 11th & 12th DECEMBER @ 11.15 a.m.

WOLVERHAMPTON 9 COALWAY GARDENS, MERRY HILL

Pleasant residential cul-de-sac –
Well appointed Detached Bungalow, Double Glazing and Central Heating
Fully enclosed Porch, wide Entrance Hall, Lounge with patio doors to Garden, well appointed Kitchen, Rear Hall, Utility, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Garage, separate Workshop, attractive Gardens. EPC: D.61

Guide: £138,000 / £143,000

VIEWING:

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 11th & 12th DECEMBER @ 12.00 noon

WOLVERHAMPTON 32A BIRCHWOOD ROAD, PENN

First Floor Flat in a popular residential area
Canopy Porch, impressive 14ft Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, Pantry
Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Garage and Garden, EPC: G.5

Guide: £50,000 / £55,000

VIEWING – Please Note: Access at rear via Ryecroft Avenue
FRIIDAY & SATURDAY, 11th & 12th DECEMBER @ 11.00 a.m.

WOLVERHAMPTON 71 OWEN ROAD, PENN FIELDS

Large Mid Terraced House with Gas Central Heating
Enclosed Porch, Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Store, Kitchen, Utility, GF Bathroom, Three Double Bedrooms. EPC: TBA
Garden to rear

Guide: £53,000 / £58,000

VIEWING

FRIIDAY & SATURDAY, 11th & 12th DECEMBER @ 10.30 a.m.

WOLVERHAMPTON, 419 STAFFORD ROAD, OXLEY

Investment Property
Detached Bungalow, prominent position
Spacious accommodation, Gas Central Heating
Enclosed Porch, wide Hall, 20ft. Lounge, Dining Room, Two Verandahs, Kitchen, Store
Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, 14ft. Loft Room
Garage, off-road Parking, attractive Garden, EPC: TBA
Please Note: This property is offered subject to a Life Tenancy with no passing rental

Guide: £58,000 / £63,000

VIEWING

FRIDAY 11th DECEMBER @ 2.30 p.m.

FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION

(subject to Conditions and prior sale)

on TUESDAY 15th DECEMBER 2015 @ 6.30 p.m.

at the Ramada Park Hall Hotel, Park Drive, Goldthorn Park, Wolverhampton, WV4 5AJ

Viewing of all lots at own risk

Please Register for Catalogue

PLEASE NOTE: Viewings are at the times specified so, should you arrive late, you may find your viewing time is limited or that we have moved on in order to maintain the time schedule.

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nick tart

Nestled amidst open countryside with picturesque views across adjoining fields, this charming and period detached country residence briefly comprises entrance porch, reception hall, cellar, sitting room with Inglenook style fireplace, dining room with feature open fireplace, Farmhouse kitchen with Rayburn oven range, laundry, 4 first floor bedrooms, house bathroom, Second floor with two further attic rooms, detached launderette/ utility, detached double garage, lovely rear garden with countryside views. EPC=D55

£575,000

This charming detached bungalow enjoys an open aspect to the front elevation and adjacent views over countryside and is conveniently situated within a short driving distance of the popular Village of Brewood. Briefly comprises entrance porch, reception hall, open plan dining area and sitting room, fitted kitchen with built in appliances, inner hallway, utility with wc, a choice of 3 double bedrooms-master en-suite, family bathroom, block paved driveway, detached double width garage with up and over door, landscaped gardens on all sides. EPC=E43

£445,000

This charming detached barn conversion provides a wealth of charm and character throughout the deceptively spacious living accommodation with its vaulted ceilings and exposed beams and briefly comprises reception hall, sitting room with LPG log effect burner, open plan dining kitchen and family room, utility, downstairs suite with double bedroom & bathroom, two first floor bedrooms both with en-suite shower rooms, detached garage with separate office/playroom, front and rear gardens & secure off road parking. EPC=C75

£385,000

Occupying a choice position in an established residential area this traditional detached family home retains many of the characteristic features including traditional fireplaces and original doors and in further detail comprises porch, entrance hall, sitting room with adjoining conservatory, dining room, breakfast kitchen, utility with separate wc, 3 first floor double bedrooms - bedroom 2 with shower, house bathroom with Victorian suite, second floor attic/hobby room, off road secure parking, triple length garage and mature rear garden. EPC=F37

£275,000

NO UPWARD CHAIN -This detached family home is conveniently located within a cul-de-sac and close to local road networks with amenities including shops and schools close by. The property offers spacious living accommodation throughout and briefly comprises entrance porch, entrance hall, lounge, sun room, dining kitchen, ground floor shower room, utility area, four bedrooms, family bathroom, off road parking, garage and an enclosed mature rear garden with patio area. EPC = F37

£235,000

Occupying a choice position this semi detached property has been sympathetically extended on the ground floor and also provides an excellent opportunity for that discerning buyer looking to acquire a property that they can restyle to their own requirements. Briefly comprises reception porch, entrance hall sitting room, extended dining room, small breakfast kitchen, separate utility with w/c, 3 first floor bedrooms, bathroom with shower, ample off road parking, garage with electric rollers shutter door and landscaped rear garden.EPC=E51

£205,000

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Rent £425.00 P.C.M	Rent £550.00 P.C.M	Rent £595.00 P.C.M	Rent £625.00 P.C.M	Rent £650.00 P.C.M	Rent £1195 P.C.M

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WIGHTWICK HALL ROAD, WIGHTWICK
A most attractive & incredibly imposing detached residence of distinction & generous proportions, situated within this premier location & road, reception hall, W.C, 2 living rooms, impressive UPVCDG conservatory, 26ft10in breakfast kitchen, master bedroom & en suite, 3 further double bedrooms, deluxe dual access bathroom, GFCH, delightfully mature 135ft garden, 0.25 acre plot, double garage & drive. NO CHAIN (E/42)
OFFERS AROUND £529,950

FINCHFIELD GARDENS, FINCHFIELD
A most attractive & individual detached property providing immensely characterful living space, residing within lovely 0.35 acre plot & conservation area: spacious and inviting 16ft6in reception hall, cloaks/W.C, splendid through lounge, adjoining garden room, separate dining room, breakfast kitchen with AGA, 17ft10in x 11ft5in family room, 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, GFCH, 2 double garages, gardens on 3 elevations.(F/38)
OFFERS AROUND £499,950

SOUTHFIELD GROVE, FINCHFIELD
A well proportioned & nicely maintained detached property, offering excellent family space, situated in a sought after cul-de-sac & residential location; inviting hallway, cloaks/W.C, impressive through lounge, further living room, conservatory, breakfast kitchen, utility room, wet room, 4 bedrooms, luxury bathroom, UPVCDG, GFCH, garage, extensive drive, mature gardens.(D/61)
OFFERS AROUND £320,000

CHURCH HILL, PENN
A rare opportunity to acquire this substantial detached family home of generous proportions with enormous future potential; inviting hall, cloaks/W.C, 23ft11in full width lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, spacious part galleried landing, 4 good bedrooms, spacious bathroom, DG, GFCH, 34ft3in garage, delightful 90ft garden. Penn Common & St Bartholomew school close by NO CHAIN (F/36)
OFFERS AROUND £299,950

BEARNETT DRIVE, LOWER PENN
A particularly imposing modern detached bungalow of generous proportions, occupying a lovely position within this desirable neighbourhood: inviting entrance & inner hallways, guest W.C, 2 living rooms, 14ft2in x 13ft1in breakfast kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, spacious bathroom with wet room off, UPVCDG, GFCH, double garage, mature gardens, countryside views to rear. NO CHAIN (TBA)
OFFERS AROUND £299,950

RICHMOND AVENUE, FINCHFIELD
An extremely well presented modern detached property offering well planned family living space, occupying an enviable position within this sought after Cul-de-sac; hall, guest W.C, full width lounge, dining room, comprehensively refitted kitchen, 4 good bedrooms, refitted bathroom, GFCH, UPVCDG, carport, garage, mature front & rear gardens. (D/64)
OFFERS AROUND £239,950

TYRLEY CLOSE, COMPTON
A delightful link-detached property having been substantially extended & improved upon to provide an excellent standard of living space: hall, impressive lounge, dining room, comprehensive 19ft breakfast kitchen, 3 bedrooms, well appointed bathroom, UPVCDG, GFCH, imprinted drive, garage, mature garden with open views, pleasant cul-de-sac position.(D/60)
OFFERS AROUND £225,000

FINCHFIELD RD W, FINCHFIELD
A most charming & interesting period cottage property providing an impressive standard of superbly spacious & very well proportioned accommodation, retaining a wealth of original character features: hall, 2 delightful living rooms, 18ft9in breakfast kitchen, storage room, W.C, 3 good bedrooms, bathroom, UPVCDG, GFCH, driveway, lovely established garden NO CHAIN (E/53)
OFFERS AROUND £225,000

TRYSULL ROAD, MERRY HILL
LANDLORD INVESTMENT 2 FLATS FREEHOLD INCLUDED
An excellent opportunity to acquire this purpose built freehold development made up of 2 generously proportioned apartments offering superbly spacious & versatile living spaces with delightfully mature communal garden to rear and paved court yard frontage providing useful off road parking spaces. GUIDE PRICE £200,000

ATTWELL PARK, MERRY HILL
An attractive & well appointed link detached property, having been extensively improved upon to create excellent living space, situated within a cul-de-sac position: inviting hall, guest W.C, impressive full width living room, UPVCDG conservatory, comprehensive well equipped breakfast kitchen, three good bedrooms, luxury shower room, GFCH, UPVCDG, garage, mature gardens.(D/66)
OFFERS AROUND £187,950

HOLLYBUSH LANE, PENN
A superior & most impressive semi detached property, offering spaciously proportioned & well planned living space with many pleasing features; hall, front lounge, open plan fitted family dining kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, spacious & high boarded loft area, UPVCDG, GFCH, utility garage, block drive, long rear garden, very useful detached outbuilding offering a variety of uses.(D/61)
OFFERS AROUND £174,950

MASON CRESCENT, PENN
A most impressive semi detached property, offering spacious well planned family living accommodation which is in need of updating, occupying a pleasant position on this sought after road; hall, through lounge & dining area, kitchen, utility area, W.C off, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, UPVCDG, GFCH, utility garage, front drive, feature large established private rear garden.(D/57)
OFFERS AROUND £165,000

LEYLAND AVENUE, MERRIDALE
An impeccably maintained semi detached property, having been extensively improved upon to create an excellent standard of most spacious & versatile living space, occupying a pleasant & convenient cul-de-sac location: inviting hall, 2 attractive living rooms, fitted kitchen, feature landing, 3 good bedrooms, restyled luxury shower room, GFCH, UPVCDG, driveway, mature garden.(TBA)
OFFERS AROUND £164,950

COALWAY ROAD, PENN
An extended traditional semi detached property offering generously proportioned & well planned living space which has been well maintained throughout, conveniently situated for good local amenities; hall, 35ft5in living room with dining area, extended 16ft2in fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, restyled luxury bathroom, UPVCDG, GFCH, mature garden, driveway, convenient location. (E/42)
OFFERS AROUND £159,950

TYNING CLOSE, PENDEFORD
An extensively extended semi detached property, pleasantly situated in a small basin cul de sac & handily placed local amenities, provides spacious living accommodation, ideal for a growing family, porch, extended open plan living room, spacious fitted kitchen, utility room, W.C, 4 bedrooms, bathroom, UPVCDG, GFCH, driveway, mature gardens. NO CHAIN (E/52)
OFFERS AROUND £159,950

BROADWAY, FINCHFIELD
A deceptively spacious modern end town house property offering comfortable and versatile living space, situated within this sought after residential area: open porch, hall, 19ft1in living room, lean to veranda, comprehensively fitted kitchen, three good bedrooms, bathroom, UPVCDG, GFCH, delightfully mature garden, garage & driveway. NO CHAIN (E/50)
OFFERS AROUND £157,950

THE HOLLOWAY, COMPTON
An immaculately presented ground floor life style apartment offering excellent living space, exceptionally convenient for good Village amenities & the city: secured communal entrance, inviting hall with cloaks/storage, attractive 20ft9in living room, stylish kitchen with appliances, 2 double bedrooms, well appointed en suite & bathroom, DG, GFCH, secured parking space. (C/75)
OFFERS AROUND £154,950

WARSTONES DRIVE, WARSTONES
A traditional semi detached property offering well proportioned family living space, residing within this popular neighbourhood, convenient for amenities: hall, through living room, breakfast kitchen, covered way/utility, W.C, 3 good bedrooms, bathroom, GFCH, UPVCDG, driveway frontage, mature garden, workshop. (C/70)
OFFERS AROUND £137,950

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Rarity a key to success

By James Parker

THE people pushing Citroën's new upmarket DS breakaway brand are realists.

They know it could take 20 years before their cars are talked about in the same breath as, say, Audi.

Which, readers with long memories will remember was once itself seen as rather the upstart against the might of Mercedes or BMW – but no longer.

The assault on the posher end of the popular car market for Citroën comes in the shape of three DS models which are really old Citroëns with the badges removed.

We'll have to wait until 2017 for the first DS with no link to a previous Citroën as the brand builds its way to a six-strong range. So for now, it's a case of mild makeovers to keep the DS name in the news.

Which brings us to the car you see here, a very gentle reworking of the previous Citroën DS4 but now called simply DS 4 (note the distance between the number in the new one; these things matter to brand builders) with the emphasis on pepping up the bits you can see.

That means new paint choices (38 colour combinations in fact, applied by five people and taking seven hours to complete) and new brighter LED headlights.

Inside, you can option a very plush leather finish and play with a new seven inch touchscreen that controls things like navigation and music and saves a dozen buttons – which you might find neat and elegant or a nuisance when you need to change something quickly.

The newcomer is the first car in the PSA Group (that's Peugeot, Citroën and DS) to offer Apple CarPlay, which links more recent iPhones with the screen and lets you use the navigation app on your phone and allows Siri voice control work to manage your emails.

The new DS 4 comes with a second choice of body style in the shape of the Crossback, which uses mildly raised suspension, wheelarch trims, roof bars and touches of black to give it the look of an SUV, the current darling of the car world and selling in shedloads.

In fact, the Crossback is no more likely to tackle a grassy field than its lower riding sibling, but it looks the part of urban warrior. You can bet one or two of the all-new DS models waiting in the wings will also have SUV genes, and perhaps rather more convincing ones at that.

There are six engines on offer, including a 1.2 litre three-cylinder petrol unit and a 2.0 litre diesel in three power outputs. A 'proper' automatic gearbox is available for the first time, replacing the one that jerkily changed a conventional 'box for you.

Prices of the hatchback version start at £19,495 for a car in Elegance trim with the small petrol engine and top out with the 180 horsepower diesel Prestige automatic at £25,495.

The DS 4 Crossback has a more restricted range, taking in two diesels but starting at the 1.2 litre petrol version at £21,745 and stretching to the top auto diesel for £26,495.

They all share the same modestly catwalk looks, with dramatic curves and creases and an interior that's both obviously well built and looks smart enough to give a junior Audi a run for its money.

Those look-at-me lines have consequences; the rear doors are tiny (even the DS people say they're 'for occasional use') and space is the back is tight. Larger adults need not apply.

Out on the road, the 150 horsepower diesel pulled strongly and returned 46mpg - way short of the official figure, but then that's the nature of the official test at the moment. A 1.2 petrol version showed 41mpg.

Both cars were restless on less than perfect roads but it's looks and perhaps even rarity value that will make the case for this DS as we wait for the full-on models to arrive.

Assault on the posher end of the popular car market for Citroën comes in the shape of three DS models.

TESTED

DS 4 Prestige BlueHDi 150

Engine: 148bhp diesel

Warranty: Three years, 60,000 miles

Economy: The DS 4 can do 72.4mpg

Insurance: 26

Price: £23,495

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The mpg figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results obtained through laboratory testing. These are provided for comparability purposes only and may not reflect your actual driving results.

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Wolverhampton Chronicle Thursday, December 10, 2015

More sport in the Vitara

By John Griffiths

Suzuki's familiar Vitara was a bit of a trendsetter when it first hit the streets more than a quarter of a century ago.

Back in those days it had little competition in the compact SUV sector, for people who wanted practicality with all-weather ability.

Now, it seems, almost every major car maker is dipping its toes in what has become the fastest growing sector of the market.

But a new lighter, sleeker and better equipped Vitara launched earlier this year is holding its own, and now a new secret weapon has been unveiled: a more sporty, high specification version with turbo power.

Prices haven't yet been announced, but the new Vitara S is expected to come in at around £21,000 with Suzuki's Allgrip four wheel drive system. The entry level 1.6 litre, two wheel drive version starts the new Vitara range launched earlier this year at £13,999.

The new 1.4 litre 'Boosterjet' petrol engine is new to Suzuki and with 140PS on tap it's 17 per cent more powerful than its 1,600cc stablemate. That, naturally, makes the S version the quickest Vitara over the benchmark 0 to 62mph sprint with a time of 10.2 seconds – a whole 1.3 seconds faster, in fact.

But not many of us are interested in the traffiic light sprint: the big story is that the turbo engine has 220Nm of torque, 41 per cent more than the 1.6 and that makes an impact on how the Vitara S drives in everyday situations.

Unlike a standard petrol engine which needs revs to extract the power, maximum torque is available from just 1,500rpm so it pulls strongly from just above tickover, cruises more smoothly and quietly, and has stronger in-gear acceleration for rapid overtaking. It feels more relaxed, with almost effortless progress. Motorway cruising is particularly quiet, adding to the refined and 'grown up' feeling of the car.

Yet in spite of the advantages it is capable of averaging 53.3mpg according to official figures – just 1mpg behind the less powerful 1.6.

Suzuki's engineers have carried out a range of other technical improvements to improve efficiency. Apart from your costs at the pumps, it means this most powerful and sporty Vitara has a CO2 rating of 127g/km, pretty impressive (and tax efficient) for a four wheel drive.

Cornering

Suzuki's Allgrip four wheel drive system is well proven. With the three position switch set to 'Auto' only the front wheels are powered to save fuel in normal driving conditions, with torque diverted to the rear axle only if the sensors detect slippage. Sport mode apportions power for best cornering performance on twisty roads, while 'Lock' is designed to ensure maximum traction on all four wheels in snow and mud.

There's also a hill descent control, which uses pulses of braking to keep the car at a crawl on steep, slippery slopes without tobogganing. All Vitara's have 'hill hold control' to stop the car rolling backwards. With its new suspension system, ride and dynamics in the Vitara S are more car like than rock 'n'roll SUV. While it still has the ground clearance and firm springing it needs to tackle tough off-road work it's sufficiently well damped to smooth out the bumpier bits of a typical b-road.

Steering is plenty light enough for manoeuvring around town, but provides adequate feedback on the open road. Body roll is well suppressed so that brisk cornering isn't an uncomfortable business where the height of the vehicle (great for easy access and visibility) becomes a disadvantage,

It's combination of electronic stability systems, ABS and all wheel drive were put to the test in a slalom and 'avoidance' test involving the sort of rapid changes of direction you'd instinctively make in an emergency. It was enough to convince journalists taking part that the Vitara was able to cope with the sort of situation you'd really rather avoid on the road.

If the worst does happen, it has seven airbags and a body structure which enabled it to score a maximum five stars in the EuroNCAP crash tests. Plus higher spec models have both an adaptive cruise control and radar brake support system designed to stop you being the cause of the problem by running into the back of someone else.

As you'd expect from a new sporting flagship model, there are visual clues which set it apart – notably the unique 17-inch black alloy wheels prominent chrome grille and matt chrome wing mirrors.

The Vitara range is well equipped as standard, and the S model is the flagship of the range, kitted out to premium saloon standard which makes its likely £21,000 price tag look even more competitive. It includes a seven-inch central touchscreen which controls the audio, navigation, and full smartphone connectivity systems.

Suede seats, automatic air conditioning, automatic and self-levelling headlamps, electrically heated and adjustable door mirrors, front and rear parking sensors, a rear parking camera, electric windows, rear privacy glass and electric windows are among the highlights. All Vitaras have a family-sized 375 litres of cargo space, rising to 710 litres if the split/fold rear seats are folded flat. Roof rails are standard.

The new S model is expected to have a 17E insurance rating, and comes with a three year/62,000 mile warranty.

The Vitara has undergone various makeovers but essentially it's been around since 1988 and there's a good reason for that: despite the growing competition buyers like it, and Suzuki has built up a strong reputation for reliability and customer service.

Price, of course, always plays a part in buyers' decisions so there will still be plenty going for the 1.6 litre petrol or diesel engined options.

But while the Vitara S with its 1.4 Boosterjet engine is at the top of the range price-wise, it's also the best equipped and sportiest version. And, arguably, offers the most refined driving experience too which will doubtless attract not only Suzuki drivers who want to change up, but converts from rival brands, too.

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Luxury on big wheels in 'palace'

By John Griffiths

If you're going to name your flagship car after a palace, you'd better be sure that it lives up to its billing.

Well you wouldn't expect great masters on the wall or the crown jewels, but SEAT's big seven seater does offer a taste of luxury on wheels.

Certainly it's been enough to win the Alhambra no less than 13 'best MPV' awards in Britain and now it's become even better. The second generation car first seen in 2010 has undergone a makeover: few major changes on the outside but a raft of upgrades to the interior, communications technology and safety, plus new and more efficient engines.

With prices from £24,885 to £35,770 it is competitively priced for luxury family transport, undercutting even some of its own cousins from the Audi VW Group.

The Alhambra is, by any standards, a big car: if you're now carrying passengers you can fold down the rear seats and load a staggering 2,300 litres of cargo on board (more than some vans). But whereas some early seven-seaters were actually derived from vans the Alhambra experience is in the upmarket saloon class. Only with more room.

That is one of the reasons SEAT has powered up the two turbo diesel options – the 'old' 140PS is replaced by a 150PS version, and the 177PS by a 184PS.

In this class of car boosting the horsepower, and torque isn't all about performance, it's about providing the power and torque to drive a relatively heavy vehicle more smoothly and quietly. In a word, refinement.

That was evident with the test car, a £34,840 SE Lux in . It was powered by the 184PS version of the two litre diesel, mated to the now familiar DSG six speed transmission – probably the smoothest, most responsive automatic on the market. If you're in the market for this type of car, the £1,300 extra cost of DSG over manual seems like money well spent.

There's plenty of performance but this combination makes progress particularly relaxed, and quiet, That upmarket saloon feeling again.

The new Alhambras also now come with a dynamic chassis control button, allowing you to set up the dampers for normal, comfort or sport mode, for a more supple ride or a more sporting response to steering input.

Best seller

The SE Lux specification, although it is near the top of the price range, proved to be one of the best-sellers in the previous range. That's perhaps an indication that customers appreciate the value for money compared to a less well equipped rival. As an alternative, there's a sports themed range-topper, the FR Line.

The Alhambra doesn't feel its size on the road, and can be hustled along winding b-roads with confidence. Sports suspension and a limited slip differential on the 184PS versions add to the dynamic competence of this top-powered model.

Official figures credit this top-powered version a fuel average of 53.3mpg and CO2 emissions of 139g/km (exactly the same as the manual). For the 150PS version, the figures are 0 to 62mph in 10.4 seconds, 55.4mpg and 132mpg.

The third engine option is new to the Alhambra. It's a 1.4 litre petrol, but thanks to the now well proven TSI technology it turns out an impressive 150PS of power and 250Nm of torque: enough to tackle the benchmark sprint in 10 seconds and average better than 42mpg (CO2 rating 150g/km).

A few years ago a 1,400cc petrol engine would have seemed ludicrous in a car like this,for which it would have been underpowered and uneconomical. But that was before TSI – a small capacity, turbocharged engine – which many manufacturers now emulate, You get 1.4 litre economy when the engine is cruising or on light loads, but the extra torque of a turbo when you need power for overtaking or tackling steep hills. Once again, it has the additional advantage of extra refinement in everyday driving.

On the outside, new LED tail lights, black high gloss B pillars, a new grille and new alloy wheels distinguish the facelifted Alhambra but it's inside where the biggest improvements have taken place. Practicality hasn't changed, with the five split/fold down centre and third row seats, Wide opening, sliding rear doors make access to the rear easier.

The centre colour touchscreen now comes with a range of connectivity options likely to appeal to the business user and younger family members. There's even a new 'Connect' specification, illustrating a range of systems by which mobile phone apps can be fully integrated with the in car systems.

There's a new multi collision braking system, designed to prevent the car being shunted into further danger even if the driver has been temporarily incapacitated in a collision, As befits a car designed for families, additional safety systems take centre stage with blind spot monitoring joining the standard electronic stability control and other electronic wizardry such as parking assistand a driver fatigue warning.

It's not difficult to see why the Alhambra has become an awarded winner and this latest makeover will serve to keep it ahead of the pack.

It's roomy, refined, flexible and ideal for families, at a competitive price. The new, more efficient engines and the latest hi-tech connectivity options will make it even more of an attraction for business users.

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Women seeking men

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FRANCES, 45, busty female, loves nights in/out, seeking uncomplicated male who can occupy my free time for quality companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420003**

FEMALE, seeks fun loving male who likes a drink and a laugh, to enjoy erotic experiences with a curvy brunette. Discretion guaranteed. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5079311**

MARY, pretty, friendly, lots of fun, lives in Kidderminster, loves the theatre, opera, ballet, WLTM a lovely, charming, funny, genuine guy, 30s, to settle down with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419883**

LOU, 45, lives in Shrewsbury, WLTM a lady between 42-49 with blue eyes, must be kind, caring and funny to mend my broken heart, someone who likes to curl up on the sofa for cozy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419855**

FREYA 24yr old single mum, looking for male for free time frolics, call me if you're interested, it could be fun! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419851**

LISA 38 slim attractive blonde, looking for a man who will appreciate a feminine, fashionable, fun, romantic sensual woman with a mind of her own. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419839**

SARAH 38, slim, nice looking, sensual, tactile, no ties, WLTM kind, loving male to enjoy affectionate relationship. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419821**

PAT 66, attractive, N/S, likes reading, nights out, seeks gent for friendship, days out and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418277**

FEMALE, dark haired 5'10, curvy, likes reading, walking, cinema, seeks male 40-50 for lasting relationship. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5077545**

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 4294 Box 419673**

PROFESSIONAL black female age 52, enjoys evenings and days out, would like to meet similar Midlands male. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5315901**

DISCREET man wanted by married lady for no strings fun. I'm called Sarah and am 37yrs. Pls call, ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 4299 Box 418167**

CATHY, 42, good looking brunette with a real passion for life, seeking male for happy times, dates, chats, romance and more. Pls call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420073**

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 4291 Box: 409715**

FEMALE fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287**

MAUREEN, discreet sensual lady, 42yrs seeks daytime fun at her home. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 4275 Box: 405297**

MAGGIE, 72 yrs young, good sense of humour, well presented, WLTM kind, sincere chappie to share coffee and a chat. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5310040**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 4295 Box: 413399**

LOUISE 35, dark hair, blue eyes, attractive ex air hostess, looking for fun times with older male for romantic nights in and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420043**

LOUISE, pretty hairdresser, works long hours, finds it hard to meet a boyfriend, 34yrs, own flat. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4192572**

39 yr old independent single Mom, knows the benefit of having a good man in the picture. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5084796**

JENNI, single mum seeks single dad, own home, can accommodate and loves spoiling her man. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4115108**

JOANNA, 36, petite, auburn haired female, lovely figure seeks loving older male for fun nights out and cosy nights in. Maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419595**

SHARON 32, attractive black single mum of one, very tactile and passionate, WLTM male 45-65yrs for fun meets. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419579**

MARIE, 43, fun blue-eyed brunette, fit and active, seeks similar male to have a laugh with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419417**

KAREN 50, widow, likes swimming, horse riding, keep fit, clay pigeon shooting, GSOH, N/S, non drinker, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415211**

CURVY, farm girl at heart, 32, 5ft 10, single mum, caring, kind, shy, likes walks, cooking WLTM tactile male farmer for LTR. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5067001**

68YR old widow, attractive, seeks sincere, N/S male, likes reading, meals out and walks. West Midlands. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414773**

JULIA 47, looking for genuine, reasonably attractive male friend, may to lead to more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419695**

LADY Penelope seeks her very own Parker (47-58) to go on a voyage of discovery and romance. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4550237**

BLACK lady seeks white male over 60, any location, for friendship and hopefully a lot more. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4256384**

CHARLENE, 24, petite curvy young blonde seeks similar cheeky, fun loving guy for lots of fun and loving. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419597**

AMANDA, 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418117**

CAROL Ann, sensitive slim brunette very romantic seeks tall handsome male for fun, friendship and lots of TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419385**

KIRSTEN, 36, attractive, blonde and very bored, seeking open-minded decent male for fun/friendship, 40-60yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419383**

LADY young at heart, nice eyes, seeks man 42-52 with good sense of humour. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4881572**

FEMALE medium build, blonde hair, 5ft 5ins, seeks male, 50-58, GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415429**

WIDOW 50, blonde hair, GSOH, 5ft 5ins, slim, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415767**

MARIE, 43, fun blue-eyed brunette, fit and active, seeks similar male to have a laugh with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419417**

FEMALE 50's, 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks gent with GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415871**

BLUE eyed female, blonde hair, slim, GSOH, loving, caring, understanding, seeking similar male, 55-55. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416989**

SUSANNAH, 48, curvy female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417341**

MID naughty forties female looking fun, thrills and discreet meets, give me a call, you wont be disappointed. Any age with own accommodation. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409109**

VAL 41, pretty, cuddly, flirty, seeks similar fun loving male for an uncomplicated no strings relationship. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416601**

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

LINDA, 47, brown-eyed blonde, caring, loving and honest, many interests, seeks genuine male to share lonely evenings with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417211**

JOYCE, affectionate sensitive widow, bit of a romantic, seeks loving male for lots of TLC. Looks unimportant, it's what's in the heart that matters. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419143**

DIVORCED female, attractive, sensual by nature, OHAC, bored with own company, looking to make life a little more exciting with likeminded man. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419219**

JANE, 47, voluptuous female, long hair, brown eyes, generous curves, would love to spend cosy nights in with that special male. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417985**

PAULINE, 49yrs, very attractive, curvy divorcee, affectionate and fun, seeks laid back, sincere male for an uncomplicated, loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418925**

VIRGINIA, outgoing social female, 24, tall slim and attractive, looking for fun times, maybe more. Can accommodate/travel. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418845**

LOOKING for the right chemistry with country loving gent who like me is looking for some extra fun in their life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418843**

LYN, 43, divorced very lonely single mum, young looking, slim, attractive, WLTM similar male for companionship. Age/looks/Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418795**

SOPHIA very sensual black lady looking to acquire a new distraction with lots of adult fun thrown in for good measure. Race/age/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413399**

DEBBIE, 29, looking for mature professional fun guy, 40-50 to spend good times with. Call me, you have nothing to lose. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419075**

JULES, sensitive tactile, curvy brunette, hopeless romantic, seeks tall, loving male for fun, friendship and possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419033**

VIRGINIA, outgoing social female, 24, tall slim and attractive, looking for fun times, maybe more. Can accommodate/travel. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418845**

HEATHER, well travelled solvent brunette looking to share a large glass of wine and whatever follows with affectionate man friend. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419031**

EILEEN, slim green eyed brunette likes meals out and cosy nights in, seeks tall male who would make her laugh and brighten up her day. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418347**

FEMALE fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287**

FEMALE seeking gent 55-70, down to earth, nice and intelligent who knows how to treat a lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417195**

YOUNG early 40's female, GSOH, kind, caring, considerate, seeks male for friendship, possible romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410847**

CAROL 49, attractive, green eyed blonde, honest warm hearted, n/s with GSOH likes cinema, music, walking, meals out and travel seeking similar male. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4283683**

FEMALE, 50, short blond hair, blue eyes, 5ft 10, slim build, looking for a man 50- 55 with salt and pepper hair and GSOH. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4435776**

HEATHER, 34, single very attractive brunette, sensual and interesting, looking to add to life's experiences and adventures with professional male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418193**

JACKIE lonely and looking for male company, 48-65. Need a bit of love and affection? Then I'm your girl. call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418169**

JAN, 47, once bitten twice shy! Looking for non complicated fun times. Attractive, discreet, OHAC, you won't be disappointed. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418089**

EMMA, 43, easygoing female looking to broaden her horizons, WLTM similar male for romantic liaisons. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418009**

SHARON, 48, tall slim attractive, live alone with no ties, love romanticising and WLTM man for good times together, maybe more. Any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417751**

JAN 35yr old blue eyed blonde, outgoing, friendly, WLTM passionate guy to share good wine, good conversation, flirting and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418609**

ATTRACTIVE professional lady, widow, 50's, likes walks, sight seeing, theatre, meals out, seeks genuine, professional gent, 5ft 9ins plus to make life more enjoyable. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418615**

JAN 35yr old blue eyed blonde, outgoing, friendly, WLTM passionate guy to share good wine, good conversation, flirting and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418609**

SENSUAL tactile, attractive female, long blonde hair, blue eyes, loves travel, wining/dining, WLTM genuine male for mutual companionship. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418587**

BROKEN hearted lady 39 seeks loving male to mend heart age 39/40. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4869116**

KAY, very young 45, fit and active, no ties, seeks similar young at heart, fun male for fun meets. Age/Status/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418577**

VIVACIOUS strawberry blonde who knows just what she wants, looking for caring male for spontaneous fun relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418445**

WENDY, 40, slim, fit, bubbly female looking to meet a tall, slim, fit, mature male who thinks he can keep up. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418369**

JO 55, curvy redhead, loves eating out, theatre, travel, looking for middle-aged prince charming to sweep me off my feet. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4464905**

GENUINE lady looking for genuine male, age 58-60, for friendship and to have a laugh with. So if that's you would love to hear from you. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4537136**

PAT 66, attractive, N/S, likes reading, nights out, seeks gent for friendship, days out and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418277**

68YR old widow, attractive, seeks sincere, N/S male, likes reading, meals out and walks. West Midlands. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414773**

WENDY, 40, slim, fit, bubbly female looking to meet a tall, slim, fit, mature male who thinks he can keep up. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418369**

BOSTON female 56 loyal, intelligent, loves history seeks dependable humorous male for friendship. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4751421**

TRACY, slim attractive cheerful brunette, enjoys aromatherapy/massage, looking for male who appreciates a feminine, sensual lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417787**

THEA, 36, extrovert brunette, curly hair, rugby fan, WLTM genuine male who will accept her as she is. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417763**

ATTRACTIVE kind, caring, single lady, loves animals, WLTM uniformed office for genuine, sincere relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417623**

FEMALE fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287**

SINGLE mom, 40yrs, small, not skinny WLTM single dad aged 39 to 45. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4295299**

FEMALE, 36, looking for a genuine guy to wine and dine me with lots of laughter and fun times. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4758012**

JULIE, attractive early 40's brunette, size 10, varied interests, WLTM male for fun times, good conversations, spoiling and maybe more. status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418007**

TRACY, slim attractive cheerful brunette, enjoys aromatherapy/massage, looking for male who appreciates a feminine, sensual lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417787**

Men seeking women

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ALAN, 56 year old builder, muscular build, five foot ten, fit, likes the gym, pubs, clubs and days out, seeks female with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419975**

ATTRACTIVE, fit, sporty, tactile, youthful black male seek relationship with lady. N/S. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4851641**

WIDOWER, quiet, easygoing, slim, 5ft 7 tall, smart, varied interests, seeks slimish lady, 50 to 65 yrs for caring relationship. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4906469**

TIM, easygoing honest male, discreet, uninhibited, seeks similar non-conformist averagely attractive, N/S female up to 65. Notts. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375065**

SUBMISSIVE 44year old WLTM dominant female 25-30 years who enjoys role play with friendship and maybe possible relationship. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5084114**

COLIN 61, lorry driver, 5'10", blue eyes, kind hearted, romantic, hobbies include growing fuchsia's for showing and I have a vintage tractor that I play with from time to time. Looking for similar who's up for a lot of fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418463**

WAYNE, 40, cheeky, good career, likes gym. Looking for a lady who likes stimulating conversation and times. **Tel No: 0906 515 4345 Box No: 419829**

DARREN, 44, slim build, dark brown hair, green eyes, seeks genuine female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418809**

VERY useful, attractive 58 yr old, GSOH, six foot tall, nice build, n/s, genuine, tactile, fit and sporty, looking for a women for nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420135**

MICHAEL, school teacher, very shy and lonely, 42yrs, own home, car, seeks genuine caring lady. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4156561**

COLIN, five foot eight, blue eyes, bundle of fun to be around, likes growing fuchsias for showing, vintage tractor for showing, weekends away, going out and staying in WLTM a lady for friendship/LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420089**

STEVE 39, 5ft 9ins, medium build, likes walks, seeks female, slim-medium build, single mum welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396709**

6FT well built guy, nicely groomed looking for fun intimate nights or day with slim/medium build attractive lady 35-55. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5132460**

PROFESSIONAL male, 41, own business, likes to enjoy life, clubs, pubs, cinema, gym, seeks similar female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360283**

MALE 45yrs old, self-employed motor trader/mechanic, medium build, green eyes, average looks. I am a nice genuine and honest person looking for similar lady to share a honest permanent relationship and happy times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418709**

MATURE male, 50, medium-build, varied interests, seeks true Christian female, 35-45, who enjoys evenings in and dining out, for friendship or possibly more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419283**

MARK 40, 5ft 9ins, brown hair/eyes, attractive, good looking, OHAC/business, likes walks, day trips, cinema, seeks similar female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 348239**

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MATURE male, 50, medium-build, varied interests, seeks true Christian female, 35-45, who enjoys evenings in and dining out, for friendship or possibly more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419283**

GENTLEMAN, 57, slightly mad but not bad, who will make you ever so glad that you answered his ad! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419307**

MIKE late 60's fit, active, genuine and generous, very passive seeks assertive lady any age / looks for mutual benefits. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4747481**

STOCKY, bold, unhappily married man, seeks similar very discreet female for exciting rendezvous. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4757315**

ATTRACTIVE tall black male would like to meet female for day time fun and discreet meetings, any age or location. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5077442**

PAUL 50yrs, Birmingham, with own house and own car, I have a good sense of humour and I like going out, I'm looking for the right girl for friendship/relationship. Call me when you can. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418465**

LEE, 50, seeking an Asian female for discreet fun and maybe more. Dudley area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419401**

ANDREW 53, widower, honest, genuine, caring, tactile, GSOH. Kidderminster based, hoping to love again with a decent loving lady. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4911450**

45 year old male with varied interests WLTM female 35 to 55 for fun and friendship and hopefully more. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4215562**

ADVENTUROUS 35yr old, slim, dark hair, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235**

JAMES GSOH, likes theatre, meals out, socialising, seeking easy going female, 35-55. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417469**

PETE 47, enjoys walking, meals out, seeks female, age/looks/status unimportant, with similar interests for adult fun text only. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5063152**

MALE 60s WLTM genuine fun lady, 50/60s nights in or out, likes swimming, walks, music, good food etc for friendship or more. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4852727**

TIM, easygoing honest male, discreet, uninhibited, seeks similar non-conformist averagely attractive, N/S female up to 65. Notts. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375065**

TACTILE, romantic guy, height 5ft 6in, loves good food and drinking in or out, dancing, music, conversation and cuddles. Ready for love. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4893329**

TALL attractive professional male, 50, GSOH, looking for some fun, adventure and sparkle. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418951**

MALE seeks affectionate, tactile, no drama, down to earth woman for nights in/out and loads of cuddles. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418695**

COLIN, 48, seeks large cuddly lady between 45-55 for LTR, must like hugs, kisses, cuddles and holding hands. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4906088**

MALE 63, N/S, GSOH, genuine, caring, likes music, travel, meals out, casual drink, seeks female, 50-70 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416997**

ADVENTUROUS 35yr old, slim, dark hair, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235**

COLIN 48, kind loving, seeks large cuddly lady 45 to 60 for LTR, love, romance, also like cuddles, kisses and holding hands. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4906088**

TOM, a young 59 active attractive male, 5ft8, slimmish & fit with decent looks & friendly nature, many interests, looking for lady similar age. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4926340**

GENTLEMAN, 57, slightly mad but not bad, who will make you ever so glad that you answered his ad! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419307**

GENT 55, slightly mad, but not bad, will make you glad you answered his ad! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408973**

GENUINE caring male, seeks similar female for friendship or possibly more. Aged between 25-39. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4916049**

ANDY 53, widower, honest, genuine, caring, happy tactile, hoping to find love again with a decent loving lady. Kidderminster. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4911450**

Men seeking men

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BI male would like to meet same, 60 to 80 years. Must be able to accommodate for fun weekends. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4931168**

BI male WLTM same for weekend fun, 60 to 70 years old. Must be able to accommodate. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4931168**

BI male would like to meet same. 60 to 80 yrs. Must be able to accommodate. Coventry or Birmingham. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4931168**

TALL male 57, seeks older male 60 to 80 for adult fun. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4347071**

TOM young 59 attractive male, decent looking, fit, slimmish, good company & fun loving with many interests, seeking similar male. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4926340**

Women seeking Women

ATTRACTIVE full figure bi lady 58 seeks female of similar age for fun times. Cotswold area. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4636475**

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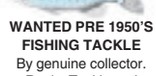

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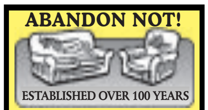

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6 Property

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Marie Severn, National Milk Laboratories, Laches Close, Calibre Industrial Park, Four Ashes, Wolverhampton, WV10 7DZ or alternatively email maries@nationalmilklabs.co.uk.

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ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991
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DIVERSION OF VEHICULAR TRAFFIC

NOTICE is hereby given that the Staffordshire County Council intend, not less than seven days from the date of this Notice, to make an Order the effect of which will be to prohibit any vehicle from proceeding in that length of Whitehouse Lane, Codsall Wood so much as passes by and is in the immediate vicinity of Danny Park Cottage unless the vehicle is being used in connection with the works. Vehicular access to frontages will be maintained.

The preferred alternative route for traffic will be available via Whitehouse Lane, Church Lane, Wood Road and Whitehouse Lane.

The Order will come into operation on 15 December 2015, and the said works will commence on or as near as practicable to that date. It is anticipated that the works will be completed by 18 December 2015.

The Order will remain in force for a period of 18 months or until the new gas service works, which it is proposed to carry out on or near the road, have been completed, whichever is the earlier.

John Tradewell, Director for Strategy, Governance and Change
2 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford ST16 2DH.

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Date: 26 November 2015

LICENSING ACT 2003
Application has been made by Marston's PLC to the Licensing Authority of South Staffordshire Council to vary the Premises Licence for the New Inn at Station Road, Wombourne, WV5 9EY. The application includes the following terms:- Variation to change the internal layout of the premises as per the drawing deposited with the Licensing Authority. Full details of the Application and the drawing can be viewed at the offices of the Licensing Authority at South Staffordshire Council, Legal & Public Health Protection Services, Wolverhampton Road, Codsall, South Staffordshire, WV8 1PX. A responsible authority or any other person can make written representations to the Licensing Authority at any time up to and including 30th December 2015 (www.sstaffs.gov.uk)
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10 Personals

personal

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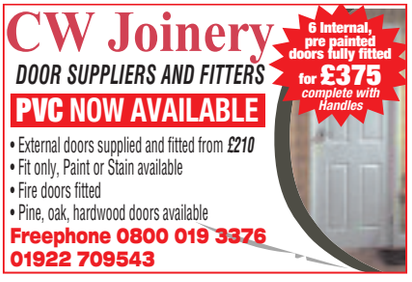

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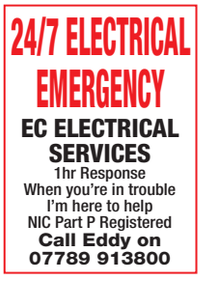

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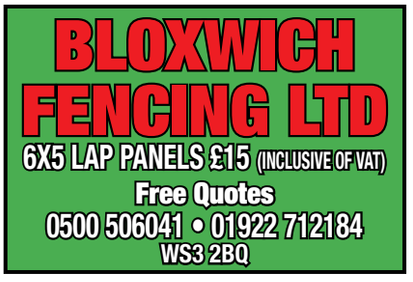

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AFC Wulfs let the lead slip away to share points

Old Wulfrunians 2 Bardon Hill 2

AFC Wulfrunians had to settle for a share of the Midland Football League spoils after squandering a 2-0 lead at home to Bardon Hill.

A good run down the right-hand side by Jake Webb allowed him to curl an inviting ball into the area and it was attacked by Ben Jevons, but Lee Attenborough was unfortunate to force it into his own net.

Some more impressive work from Webb saw Ricky Anslow doubled Wulfs' lead two minutes after the break with a first-time effort past Ryan Swift.

A penalty offered the visitors a way back into the game when Luke Edwards went down under challenge from John Hill.

Stephen Hart made no mistake from the spot and the fightback was completed six minutes from time when Edwards netted.

An impressive save from Tipton prevented Bardon Hill from levelling the game just minutes later. Edwards again took the ball into the box and this time hit a powerful shot that looked destined for the bottom corner, but Tipton was equal to it as he pushed it onto the post.

Jamie King had the opportunity to give Wulfs a more comfortable lead after 68 minutes as he latched onto a long Tipton kick that was left by everybody, but his powerful effort was kept out by Swift.

Edwards eventually levelled the game with six minutes to go. Leon Fray delivered a low cross that the striker controlled before firing in on the turn.

Wulfrunians will look to end their run of three games without a win this week, as they take the trip up to Alsager Town .

Khalsa win second clash with Wood

Sporting Khalsa 3 Walsall Wood 0

SPORTING Khalsa stayed in the chasing pack behind leaders Hereford with this comfortable victory over Walsall Wood.

Wood were always playing catch up after conceding two goals in the opening 13 minutes, when they went 3-0 down on 45 minutes it was all over as a contest.

After just five minutes Craig Bannister buried the ball in the net. Two minutes later an intricate piece of play wide on the right between Max Black and Dan Griffiths saw the ball played low into the box, a hurried clearance went straight to Drew Aiton to hit a first time rising drive that keeper James Pemberton pushed out for a corner. The corner was met by Corey Currithers, the ball cleared off the line and behind for a corner to loud hand ball appeals from the Wood attackers, from this corner Ben Birch hit a rising drive inches over the bar.

On 10 minutes Bannister collected the ball on the right edge of the box, turned away from his marker and his shot, heading into the corner was well held by keeper Lee Evans. Three minutes later the hosts were two ahead, a free kick in the centre of the D from Bannister cannoning off the left hand post, Bradley Lawley first to the loose ball to fire into the roof of the net.

On 30 minutes Marvin Nisbett won the ball on halfway and raced through the centre before playing the ball right to Bannister who stepped inside one challenge before being robbed by a superbly timed tackle from Steven Hayles.

Right on the whistle for half time Franco fed Mensah Kinch wide right, his cross into the centre was met by the head of Bannister, Evans with a superb save to push the ball over.

From the left wing corner Marvin Nisbett bundled the ball home at the near post.

The second half was an anti-climax.

The first effort after the restart came from a left wing free kick on 66 minutes, the ball was headed on and Lawley headed the ball straight to Evans.

Spirits are high for Christmas push – Batth

WOLVES skipper Danny Batth says the squad's team spirit is better than it's ever been – as they plot a rise up the Championship table over Christmas.

Batth scored the winning goal as Wolves ended a run of four winless matches with a 2-1 victory over Rotherham on Saturday. In-form midfielder James Henry had set them on their way with an early header.

The much-needed victory lifted Wolves to 14th, five points off the play-off places.

It's been a struggle for consistency all season – but Batth insists the players have not wavered in their belief.

"There are people on the outside looking in thinking, 'there's probably this and that going on'," Batth said.

"But in the dressing room we're as tight knit as we've ever been.

"Whatever's going on outside, we'll let that carry on and we'll focus on us and make sure those 11 lads out there are playing for each other and the club."

Wolves host Nottingham Forest and Leeds United in the next 10 days in two televised matches.

With the games coming thick and fast between now and early January, the captain stressed the importance of picking up as many points as possible.

"Every player will tell you the Christmas period can have a big impact on where you finish," he said.

"It only takes a few results over Christmas and we feel we've got that in us.

"There'll be no rest for us – it's about how we recover and do the basics right to get those results."

McClean turns the boos into cheers

Albion 1 Spurs 1

THE roar of approval which greeted the Albion team at the final whistle was proof of how far they've come.

Where once there were boos, now there are cheers. This was a far cry from the insipid performances Tony Pulis' side produced at The Hawthorns at the start of the season.

It was a full-blooded match full of excitement, tension and meaty challenges.

More importantly, Albion were on the front foot for the majority of the second half and, just like at Upton Park, came away disappointed not to have won.

Before the match, the Baggies had taken the least number of shots in the league, but on Saturday they had 11 efforts in total.

Spurs extended their unbeaten run to 14 games but only because Hugo Lloris pulled off a short-range wonder-save from Jonas Olsson.

Mauricio Pochettino's team have been praised for pressing teams, but it was Albion who hunted down the ball on Saturday and won it in dangerous positions.

Moving Jonny Evans into a holding midfield role proved an inspired decision.

Not only did the former Manchester United defender mop up play in the centre circle and stop Spurs before they had a chance to get going, he also got forward.

Interception

It was Evans' interception midway inside the Spurs' half which led to James McClean's equaliser.

Playing just one screening midfielder in a 4-1-4-1 formation allowed Darren Fletcher to venture forward more often.

Adding an attacking threat to his usual tidy passing game, the Scot was twice involved in the build-up to Albion's goal.

He found himself out on the right wing first of all, and after recycling the ball to James Morrison, made a burst to the byline which Stephane Sessegnon spotted.

It's hard to imagine him making such a run playing deeper alongside Claudio Yacob in the usual 4-2-3-1 formation.

And what a team goal it was. A 10-pass move involving six different players, this was Pulis football at its best.

The head coach has spoken about the need to get down the sides of the pitch more, but it's becoming apparent that Albion should take that one step further and aim for the byline.

Kyle Walker of Tottenham Hotspur and James McClean of West Bromwich Albion

The winner against Arsenal came from McClean's sprint to the end of the pitch, and it was a similar move by Fletcher which created the Irish winger's first goal for the club.

McClean put in his usual energetic performance but could have been shown red for a strong yet reckless tackle on Moussa Dembele in the centre circle.

His passion makes him the player he is, but he needs to learn how to harness it.

Overall, Salomon Rondon had one of his best games in an Albion shirt but he needs to start converting his chances.

The Venezuelan caused problems for Jan Vertonghen and Toby Alderweireld all game, and managed to make the long balls up to him stick.

He had five shots, more than any other player on either side, but should have done better with two particular opportunities.

Birthday boy Gareth hoped for the victory

BIRTHDAY boy Gareth McAuley was hoping for all three points against Spurs, but was happy to settle for one considering the swirling conditions and the visitors' form.

Albion's centre-half turned 36 on Saturday, making him one of the oldest outfield players to wear the blue and white stripes in the Premier League.

Only Bob Taylor and Kevin Campbell have been older, but McAuley is likely to break their records later on this season because both strikers made their last appearances for the club at 36 years and four months.

Playing alongside 32-year-old Jonas Olsson, the Northern Irishman needed all of his experience to deal with an in-form Harry Kane, who arrivedwith nine goals in his previous seven games.

But Albion looked the more likely to snatch victory in the second half.

"It would have been lovely to get all three points against Spurs on Saturday as a nice birthday present," said McAuley.

Saido's score not enough to win match

SAIDO BERAHINO scored in a 2-1 defeat at West Ham.

The striker has spent several games on the bench for the first team recently.

But he played the full match at Rush Green, where Martin Samuelsen's 92nd-minute goal condemned the young Baggies to their first league defeat in 14 games.

Fellow senior players Cristian Gamboa and Serge Gnabry also turned out, the Costa Rica international completing the full game while the Arsenal loanee was only substituted in the 84th minute.

Jaanai Gordon's ferocious hit put the Hammers ahead after 52 minutes.

However, the Baggies levelled on the hour through Berahino's strike from the edge of the penalty area.

But Samuelsen scored in the second minute of injury time.

Albion: Rose, Gamboa, Fitzwater, Donnellan, Ezewele, Field (Elbouzedi 65), S Nabi, Cleet, Gnabry (Roberts 84), Campbell (Leko 56), Berahino.

Casuals come away with all the points

W-ton Casuals 2 Malvern Town 1

WOLVERHAMPTON Casuals edged out Malvern Town to nicked three West Midlands Premier League points as both teams struggled to adapt to the gale force winds.

All the drama came late in the game as Malvern skipper Phil Harris put his side in front on 86 minutes.

Casuals equalised from the restart as Giles Harvey found the net and moments later Rhys Lampett fired home the winner from six yards.

Chances were at a premium in the first half, Mark Habbershaw having two chances for the Casuals and at the other end Brian Craven and Lee Hooper having shots blocked close to goal.

Malvern looked the more likely side to score in the second half

A goal in each half spells end for Wood

JW Hunt Cup
Sporting Khalsa 2 Walsall Wood 0

WOOD had the better of the first half, but still went in a goal down, courtesy of a Bradley Lawley strike in the 43rd minute.

Marvin Nisbett wrapped the game up after 63 minutes.

After five minutes a hurried clearance by keeper Charles Price only went as far as Dan Griffiths 35 yards out.

Seeing the keeper stranded on the edge of his box he tried a cheeky lob that was just too high, much to the relief of the fast back-pedalling Price.

Three minutes later a lovely Wood move from a right wing throw saw Griffiths find Craig Deakin down the line, his ball inside picked out Drew Aiton who cut inside before hitting a rising drive just over.

On 12 minutes Carlo Franco crossed from wide on the home right to pick out Ben Hadley who went outside his marker and hit a rising drive that was well held by Wood keeper Lee Evans.

A minute later a clever short corner routine from Wood saw Deakin collect the ball, cross away from goal to find Aiton to fire a first time effort too high.

On 24 minutes Max Black cut inside from wide

Football

left, his goalbound effort was blocked only for the ball to fall for Griffiths to hit first time, the ball again blocked by a defender, loud penalty appeals ignored.

Aiton won the ball on halfway and raced for goal, he went through three tackles before curling a shot just wide of the right hand post.

Then a long ball into the centre of the box bounced kindly for Tesfa Robinson and he was able to clear from Ben Evans.

Comfortably

On 43 minutes having comfortably held out Khalsa went ahead, Isaac Cooper crossed from wide on the left into the centre to find Bradley Lawley, who with his back to goal turned his marker and scored with a low drive just inside the right hand post to open the scoring.

The second half started quietly, with the home defence superbly marshalled by Robinson frustrating Wood's efforts to get back in the game.

On 58 minutes a long ball out of defence saw keeper Evans race from his box to tackle Nicholas Campbell, the ball squirming out to Mike Perks 40 yards out, to hit a first time rising drive just over the empty net.

With Wood trying to open up the home defence a move broke down on 63 minutes, the ball neatly played forward through the centre before Marvin Nisbett was released into the right of the box, he calmly fired the ball past the advancing Evans, even though Deakin got to the ball on the line he could only help it into the net.

With time running out a forceful right wing run by Ben Evans saw him cut inside and pull the ball back into the path of Lewis Taylor Boyce to fire first time wide.

Sporting Khalsa: Price, Franco, Cooper, Rogers, Robinson, Perks, Lawley, Martin, Campbell ©, Nisbett, Hadley, Cork, Nelson, Jackson, Meese, Pemberton.

Walsall Wood: L. Evans, Deakin, Hayles, Birch, Wright, Black, Griffiths, Harris, Taylor Boyce, Aiton, B. Evans, Juxon, Beckett, Ricketts, Currithers, Sidibe.

Two late goals are downers for Darlaston

KINGTON 3 Darlaston 1

Two goals in the final minute of the game condemned Darlaston to their first West Midlands League Division One defeat in 10 games.

Kington took the lead just before half-time when Tom Parry took the ball off Ryan McAllister and from 15 yards out curled the ball into the top corner.

Darlaston forced an equaliser on 78 minutes when a Sam Giles' was headed on by Mark Swann and Sam Hesson nodded home at the far post-for his second goal of the season.

Kington's Jamie Marsh had an effort disallowed for offside but Darlaston's hopes of bagging a point were dashed in added time courtesy of two well-struck free-kicks, a minute apart, from Joe Mayclothling and Neil Warmsley.

Villa can't hold on to lead at Saints

Southampton 1 Villa 1

VILLA'S winless run was extended to 14 matches as they failed to hold on at a Southampton side who entered the game on the back of three consecutive defeats.

Joleon Lescott gave the visitors an undeserved lead and exceptional opportunity with a goal in the first half, but they remain bottom of the Premier League after substitute Oriol Romeu secured a 1-1 draw.

After Wednesday's 6-1 Capital One Cup defeat at home to Liverpool, Saints manager Ronald Koeman had spoken of his team's lack of balance between defence and attack and his belief it may be necessary to alter their approach. The manager retained their familiar 4-3-3 shape, only recalling fit-again captain Jose Fonte for Steven Caulker in central defence, and the promising James Ward-Prowse for Jordy Clasie in midfield.

Koeman may have been worried about his team's poor run, but his concerns were minimal in comparison to Remi Garde.

In the three games since his appointment at Villa, the Frenchman has overseen two defeats and a draw and from the team which lost 3-2 at home to Watford came in Rudy Gestede, Leandro Bacuna, Jores Okore and Lescott.

Given he had yet to improve Villa's fragile confidence, the suspicion remained that an early Saints goal would result in a further loss of belief and another convincing defeat.

Southampton's approach immediately after kick-off suggested they shared that belief, and had they secured the opening goal their efforts deserved a comfortable victory would almost certainly have followed.

Instead, Dusan Tadic fired over the crossbar when Sadio Mane's second-minute burst of pace and cut-back had created space for him to shoot.

Graziano Pelle connected too heavily with Tadic's cross, following Victor Wanyama's through-ball, to send the ball even further off target.

Lucas on a streak with brance of victories

AS the Wolverhampton City Netball League reaches the half-way point, Division 2 saw top of the group Lucas on to a winning streak, first comfortably beating Roldec and then facing a competitive Fusion side.

Lucas went on to win by just four goals 26-22.

Phoenix Hornets turned the tables after having lost out to Dolls 1 last week, the Hornets managed a 22-15 victory in another close contest.

Team mates Dolls 2 had a close encounter with Eurostars, the Dolls eventually pulling away to secure their place near the top of the table. Blaze and Whitmore Z couldn't be separated and had to settle for a share of the points with a 10 all draw.

Sam 5 doubled their opponents score despite a valiant display by Breezers.

Division 1: Phoenix 23 (5) Crescent 7 (0).

Division 2: Whitmore J 17 (1) Ladybirds 31 (5); Roldec 10 (0) Lucas 23 (5); Phoenix Hornets 22 (5) Dolls 1 15 (1); Lucas 26 (5) Fusion 22 (2).

Division 3: Whitmore Z 10 (3) Blaze 10 (3); Wordsley Storks 13 (2) Libra Lea Navy 14 (5); Eurostars 17 (2) Dolls 21 (5).

Division 4: Flames 12 (1) Phoenix Scorpions 24 (5); Flames 22 (1) Stourbridge Jets Black 30 (5); Stourbridge Jets Black 29 (5) Inspire 13 (0); Sedgley Sirens 11 (0) Lunes 32 (5); Sedgley Sirens 11 (0) Lunes 32 (5).

Division 5: Zimmers 13 (5) Smestow Ladies 9 (2); Diamonds 26 (5) Allsortz 2 (0); Sam 5 24 (5) Breezers 12 (1); Diamonds 26 (5) Thundercats 8 (0).

Old Wulfs still on the up with a draw away

Bromsgrove 2 Old Wulfrunians 2

OLD Wulfrunians continued their improvement this season with a well-deserved away point against Bromsgrove.

Bromsgrove appeared surprised to find themselves on the back foot in the opening stages of the game, with Jandu and Wilson up front making the home team defence look shaky as they looked to get their side on the scoreboard.

Still, the Wulfs didn't have it all their own way as there was a moment of concern when Dave Cartwright had to clear off his own line, fortunately for the visitors Bromsgrove missed the target from close range.

A goal was always in the coming and it was Michael Birch who put Wulfs ahead when a shot rebounded to him in the circle.

With the keeper helpless on the floor Birch delicately reverse-chipped into the open net open the game up for his team.

With Richard Roberts controlling midfield ,Wulfs took further control in the second half when Mark Wilson scored a drag-flick penalty corner.

However, Bromsgrove were not going to lay down and came back into it with their own effort, a deflected penalty corner finding the bottom corner.

A sweetly struck reversed levelled things and the game played out with both sides having to be content with a draw.

Wulfs can escape the relegation zone on Saturday in their last game before the winter break where they find themselves up against bottom side and local rivals Wolverhampton.

Jackett thought of Le Fondre not Afobe

WOLVES boss Kenny Jackett defended his surprising decision to drop star striker Benik Afobe for the crucial victory over Rotherham.

The £15m-rated forward was benched for the first time in his short Wolves career.

It came just days after chief executive Jez Moxey refused to rule out selling Afobe in January.

Jackett instead played on-loan Cardiff City striker Adam Le Fondre up front against his old club.

The head coach said: "It was a tough decision.

"My thoughts were more about Le Fondre coming back to his old club rather than Benik not playing.

"That's just tipped it and swayed my thinking.

"I wanted to keep the system, I did think we'd need to be competitive, second balls were a big part of the game.

"It was more for Adam doing well rather than leaving Benik out.

Biggest

"Le Fondre's probably not had as many minutes as he's deserved. He's a good Championship centre forward and even though he's not the biggest player he never gives the centre-half an easy ball, I've been impressed with him since he's come in.

"At the right time they can play together.

"I felt Benik's attitude when he came on was very good and he looked a threat late in the game."

Jackett had praise for the 'excellent' Ethan Ebanks-Landell, who played a key role in Wolves' rearguard action.

And he was pleased with the battling qualities shown by his side on a windy day in Yorkshire.

"It was quite a difficult day and we had to play the conditions – we did that with heart and spirit," he said. "We've gone four games now unbeaten, three of those draws, but it shows you we're close.

"I'd like to thank the supporters for the part they played, they got right behind the players from start to finish.

"I was very pleased then, in quite difficult conditions, that we saw the game out. Rotherham flooded the midfield, got on top of some of our football but we saw the game out very well.

Terriers get their teeth into Blues

Frustration: Michael Morrison at the final whistle after Blues suffered another defeat

Blues 0 Huddersfield 2

BLUES slumped to yet another home defeat as lowly Huddersfield picked up a valuable three points with the victory at St Andrew's.

The hosts never recovered from a disastrous start when Joe Lolley gave the Terriers a shock lead after just 31 seconds.

Blues attempted to get back into the game – and out of their recent slump in fortunes following an outstanding start to the season – but an 83rd-minute goal from Nahki Wells settled the issue for the visitors.

Blues, with only one home win in their previous six games at home, were expected to be more positive. Instead they again started with only one striker, which played into the hands of Huddersfield as they exploited the situation and get the first three points for new manager David Wagner. Huddersfield moved out of the relegation zone with the victory, only their fourth of the campaign.

The Terriers were bright and adventurous and certainly responded to the call from Wagner to adopt a more attacking style.

And they made a dream start after just 31 seconds when Blues were completely caught wrong-footed by Sean Scannell.

Apology to former Villa boss Doug

THE BBC has issued an apology to former Villa chairman Sir Doug Ellis after mistakenly linking him with a radical Islamic political group.

When a commentator on Match of the Day said that it was 'great to see Doug Ellis here in his Villa scarf', the subtitles instead read 'great to see Doug Ellis here with Hezbollah'.

Hezbollah is a Muslim political and militant group based in Lebanon that is considered a terrorist organisation by several countries, including the USA.

The mistake, which happened during Villa's loss at the hands of Everton last month, was flagged up in a reader's letter to the Radio Times.

Gary Stark of Kettering spotted the gaffe and wrote in to the magazine, joking: "Let's hope he doesn't sue!"

Vlaar finally finds a home with Alkmaar

FORMER Villa captain Ron Vlaar has finally found a new club – six months after leaving Villa Park.

The Dutch defender, 30, has returned to his homeland to join Eredivisie outfit AZ Alkmaar on a deal until the end of the season.

Vlaar began his career with AZ before moving to Feyenoord in 2006 and subsequently on to Villa in 2012.

He made 88 appearances for the Villans without scoring a goal and his final outing for the club was in May's FA Cup final thrashing.

After departing Villa, a scan revealed a tear in his medial meniscus, stemming from an operation on his knee in January.

Meanwhile, QPR boss Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink insists no-one will 'pinch' Charlie Austin.

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Sport

McClean turns tide for the Baggies
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You Carnat keep a good man down

TWO goals from Nico Carnat helped Wolves advance to the fourth round of the FA Youth Cup against MK Dons at Molineux last night.

Niall Ennis grabbed a third with almost the last kick of the game to cap a comprehensive 3-0 victory for the youngsters in front of the watching Kenny Jackett.

Ennis, Bright Enobakhare and Connor Ronan stepped down from the under-21 squad to feature for Jerry Gill's side, who fully deserved their victory and should have won by far more than three goals.

Scottish winger Daniel Armstrong, recently signed from Hamilton Academical, had the game's first shot, firing at Dons keeper Andrew McCorkell following Carnat's low ball from the left.

Wolves keeper Rhys Bills was being kept fairly quiet, although when called upon he made good saves from Callum Brittain and Samuel Nombe.

Ronan, who impressed during the first team's pre-season campaign, then let fly with a 25-yard thunderbolt that clipped the top of the bar.

An Armstrong free-kick was parried by McCorkell towards Enobakhare but the ball hit him and bobbled wide as Wolves went close again.

Wolves finally broke the deadlock a minute into the second half when a right-wing cross was met with a stooping back-post header by Romanian teenager Carnat.

And five minutes later he doubled the lead.

An Ennis cross was played back inside by Enobakhare and Carnat couldn't miss from a yard out.

Thereafter Wolves were in control. And the third goal Wolves' – and Ennis' – play merited came in injury time when he lashed into the roof of the net.

Parry will stay on board as main Wolves sponsors

FORMER Wolverhampton boss Dave Parry is to stay on board with the club next season.

Parry, owner of the hugely-successful Parrys International coach tour operators in Cheslyn Hay, will be the main sponsor at Monmore for a staggering 16th season.

But he's also warned the club management they have to get it right in 2016 after some disappointing performances in recent seasons.

He said: "It's been a terrible couple of years, and we implemented a new scheme to say there was a bonus if they got into the play-offs.

"A significant part of our sponsorship is dependent on the club making the top four which hasn't materialised the last few seasons.

"We are more concerned next season that the club have to get it right, and we've had words with the management to try and see if the club can make it to the play-off stage.

"The idea is obviously to get a team that will improve on their averages."

Martinez out injured until next year

Football

WOLVES have suffered another injury blow with the news that goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez is likely to be out until January.

The Argentine was expected to have returned to action by now but a troublesome thigh injury is taking longer than first thought to fully heal.

While able to train and handle the ball, Martinez cannot kick it at full pelt and the Wolves medical staff are reluctant to pinpoint an exact date for his return.

But the form of Carl Ikeme has lessened the need to rush Martinez back – and boss Kenny Jackett was full of praise for the 29-year-old.

Of Martinez, the head coach said: "He's out training and doing everything in terms of handling the ball. But his kicking, he still looks some weeks off being fit enough to play.

"The kicking muscle is going to take a while to heal and he'll need to get to 100 per cent before we want to risk him.

"Carl Ikeme had 38 kicks on Saturday, either static kicks or back-passes, that's a lot of kicking.

"It might be around January time, that's a fair estimate. Our medical people are very reluctant to put a time on it with me, personally, but I understand why because they're trying to take it a stage at a time."

Aaron McCarey and Jon Flatt are both vying to be Ikeme's back-up and have been used on the bench in recent weeks.

Ikeme has been out of the side for most of this season, but Jackett said his professionalism had pleased him.

"He's done really well," Jackett said. "He's an experienced keeper and shown a good attitude to fight back for his place.

"That's exactly what you want. He's been here since he was 15 so.

KENNY RISKS FANS WRATH

Rotherham 1 Wolves 2

WOLVES boss Kenny Jackett opened himself up to ridicule by leaving out Benik Afobe from the away fixture of Rotherham at the weekend.

Pressure, while not from within the club, has been increasing steadily on Jackett for the past two months and could well snowball as the season continues into the new year.

After one win in eight matches he knew defeat at second-from-bottom Rotherham United would have seen the noisy minority, who think he can take Wolves no further, increase towards something approaching a majority.

Which, after what Jackett has already done for this club and what he's had to endure off the field this season (key players departing, injuries, contract issues, new signings not having an impact, a chairman who's upped sticks), is poppycock.

Throughout the rocky past few weeks and months Jackett has remained remarkably consistent in his stoic approach.

His level-headed demeanour goes some way to steadying the ship in the middle of the never-ending storm that is Wolverhampton Wanderers.

A couple of bad selection decisions, sure he's made some here and there, but there is no manager who doesn't.

Fashionably

And many were convinced he'd made another when the team sheets were delivered at 2pm on Saturday, with Twitter sent into what is fashionably described as a 'meltdown' by fans apoplectic that Afobe had been dropped.

The result justified Jackett's decision.

While his replacement Adam Le Fondre wasn't the match-winner, that's hardly the point – Jackett picked an XI to win a football match, and that they did.

By temporarily banishing Afobe he has laid down a marker to the rest of his squad that no-one is immune, no-one is more important than the team, despite his market value.

While Afobe has scored at a steady rate (eight in 21 appearances) he hasn't been the Afobe of last season, and perhaps, as in the case of Kevin McDonald, being dropped will do him good.

He certainly showed the right attitude in his late cameo off the bench. Typically of Jackett, he wouldn't take credit for the decision, nor for sending Jordan Graham out on loan to get valuable experience and confidence which he is putting to such use in Wolves colours now.

Two assists for Graham were the highlight of a scrappy match, hampered by gale-force winds, in which Wolves had to grind out victory in a second half devoid of quality.

It mattered not a jot that their football was not free-flowing. This was all about getting a win on the board to start inching up that Championship table.

Home games against Nottingham Forest and Leeds United offer opportunities to register a couple more – and with the inconsistencies of those around them, it wouldn't take too much more than that to put Wolves right in the play-off picture.

In a season of such upheaval, there is a chink of light for Wolves to aim for.

If Jackett continues to show such forthright leadership, he will guide them towards it.

Wolves will travel to Premier League side West Ham in the FA Cup third round .

David Edwards heads towards goal during Wolves' victory over Rotherham at New York Stadium

Wolves SC grab home win No.9

Wolves SC 4
Wellington Amateurs 0

WOLVES Sporting Community made it nine home wins on the bounce with another comfortable victory.

It didn't take Sporting long to get their noses in front against 21st- placed Wellington Amateurs as in the fifth minute a brilliant delivery by Kyle Delaney was met by top scorer Dan Westwood with a super, first time, volley into the bottom corner.

On 15 minutes Josh Sarmento flashed an effort from outside the penalty area just past the upright with wellington keeper Rogerson beaten.

Just a minute later Ethan Delaney's jinking run past four players saw him also fire just past the upright.

Sporting made it 2-0 though on 36 minutes as a brilliant through ball by Sarmento found Ethan Delaney he beat his marker and fired into the bottom corner to give Rogerson no chance.

Luke Stevens was called into action for the 1st time on 38 minutes as he made an excellent stop with his legs to deny the Ams forward.

Sporting made it 3-0 2 minutes before half time as Ethan Delaney latched onto a through ball into the Ams penalty area and despite being brought down he got himself up and crossed for Westwood to unleash another super volley which Rogerson could do nothing about.

Stevens was called into action with two good saves at the start of the second half tipping a looping cross over the crossbar before making a world class save to tip a volley around the post which was flying into the top corner.

It was 4-0 after a super delivery from Angelo Franco from a corner saw James Lewis rise highest to thump a header home via the inside of the post.

Grealish could be back in the fold

REMI GARDE has revealed Jack Grealish will return to training with Aston Villa's first team this week.

The talented Grealish had been forced to train with Villa's development squad as a punishment for being filmed in a Manchester nightclub hours after the 4-0 defeat at Everton and amid allegations he also partied at a Birmingham hotel the following day.

He again had no involvement in Saturday's 1-1 Premier League draw at Southampton.

But after he has played for the reserves, Gardewill again consider the 20-year-old for selection.

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Despite the growth, the business is still very family run with the company director, Dave Walters, heavily involved with his management team to ensure the standards of installations remains high. We now have six fully employed, installation teams with the administration and management teams expanded to ensure that the company has a strong focus on customer service and after sales advice. We insist on a hassle free, no pressure showroom and quote service. Our company ethos is if a job is worth doing, its worth doing right. We pride ourselves on our professionalism, workmanship, quality and aftersales which is why our business continues to succeed. In the past twelve months we have performed over 900 installations with the vast majority of these being recommendations or repeat customers.

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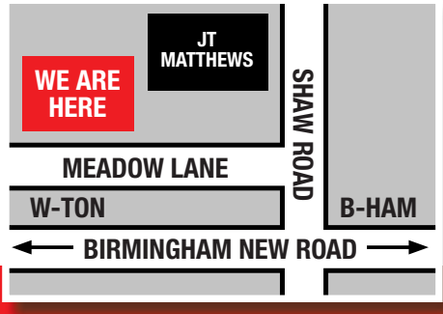

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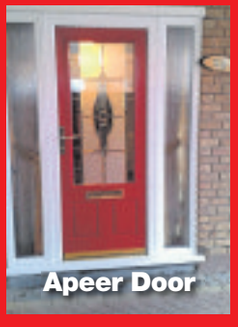

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APEER DOORS

DW Windows supply the full range of Apeer composite doors. Apeer doors provide a superb low maintenance robust colour finish and are designed to stay looking good year after year. A-Rated by design Apeer doors are designed to keep the heating and the cold out, creating one of the most energy efficient doors available. Apeer doors come in two formats 70mm thick double rebate Apeer 70 or the ingenuity of the 44mm thick single rebate Apeer 44 both perform well in terms of energy efficiency, security and appearance. DW Windows has a range of doors on show in their new showroom at Meadow Lane, why not come along and see how these doors can enhance the look of your home. Apeer Composite Doors come in three different styles, 'Traditional', 'Contemporary' and the 'Modo Collection' which feature modern doors with stainless steel trims and a range of glass designs and stainless steel furniture.

We also offer the following:

- WINDOWS
- DOORS
- CONSERVATORIES
- GARAGE DOORS
- PORCHES
- ROOFLINE PRODUCTS
- FIRESTONE RUBBER ROOFS
- COMPOSITE DOORS
- BI FOLD DOORS
- WINDOW REPAIRS
- FAMILY RUN BUSINESS
- 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE
- HIGH SECURITY PRODUCTS
- VISIT OUR SHOWROOM
- FREE QUOTATION
- NO OBLIGATION

8 Meadow Lane (Off Shaw Road), Coseley,
West Midlands, WV14 9NQ Tel: 01902 661779
Freephone: 0800 9990909
7 Brick Street, Sedgley DY3 1NT
Tel: 01902 662511 www.dwwindows.co.uk